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THE HANDS OF SHANG-CHI, MASTER OF KUNG FU



**FROM THE BOWELS OF MORDILLO'S
ISLAND THEY COME...THE
BEHEMOTHS!**

Now . . . the Amazing

ENERGIZED™

SPIDER-MAN!

ENERGIZED

TO CLIMB! Attach the Spider Clamp, turn on Spiderman's energy belt and his web climber goes into action. He climbs doors. Walls. Windows. Fences. Automatically.

ENERGIZED

**TO PULL!
TO LIFT!**

Spiderman's energized web actually pulls and lifts objects heavier than his own weight!

ENERGIZED

**TO POWER HIS
SPIDERCOPTER.**

As Spiderman sits in his Spidercopter, his power turns the rotor. And also sends out a powerful search beam. Spiderman flies by night.

Spider-man is 13½ inches tall.

ENERGIZED

TO THROW LIGHT!

His Spider-Light cuts a beam through the night, lighting the way to safety . . . or to find the enemy!

**The
ENERGIZED**

GREEN

GOBLIN. Spiderman's enemy. He's energized to cut Spiderman's web, power his Goblin Ray gun. A formidable foe for Energized Spiderman.

Green Goblin comes with Web Cutter and Goblin Ray Gun.

ACCESSORY PACK, TOO! A Spider Trap, plus Spider Ray Gun. Rocket Camera. Just attach to Spiderman's Energy Belt!

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"Call me Shang-Chi, as my *father* did, when he raised me in the vacuum of his Honan, China retreat. Since then, I have learned that my father is Dr. Fu Manchu, the most insidiously evil man on earth...and that to *honor* him would bring nothing but *dishonor* to the spirit of my name.

Stan Lee
PRESENTS:

MASTER OF KUNG FU!™

Featuring supporting characters created by SAX ROHMER

"WE DESCEND
ON...
MADNESS."

PRISONERS OF THE CROWN

IT'S EVEN
MORE STRANGE
THAN THE FIRST
TIME, SHANG...

"MORDILLO'S
FANTASTIC
ISLAND:
WHERE A
CYCLONE
ONCE RAGED
AT THE
CENTER OF A
MADMAN'S
CROWN."

"THE CROWN HAS REMAINED
THE SAME, BUT THAT WHICH
IT CONTAINS AT ITS CENTER
HAS CHANGED..."

"...AS HAS THE IDENTITY
OF THE MADMAN."

DOUG MOENCH
WRITER

MIKE ZECK
ARTIST

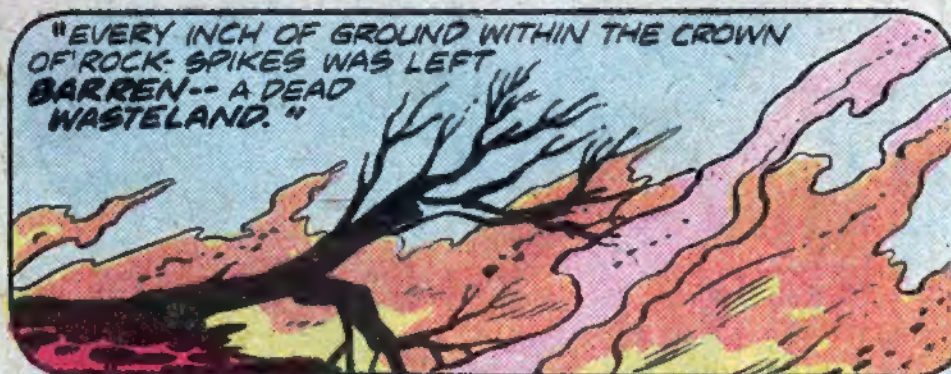
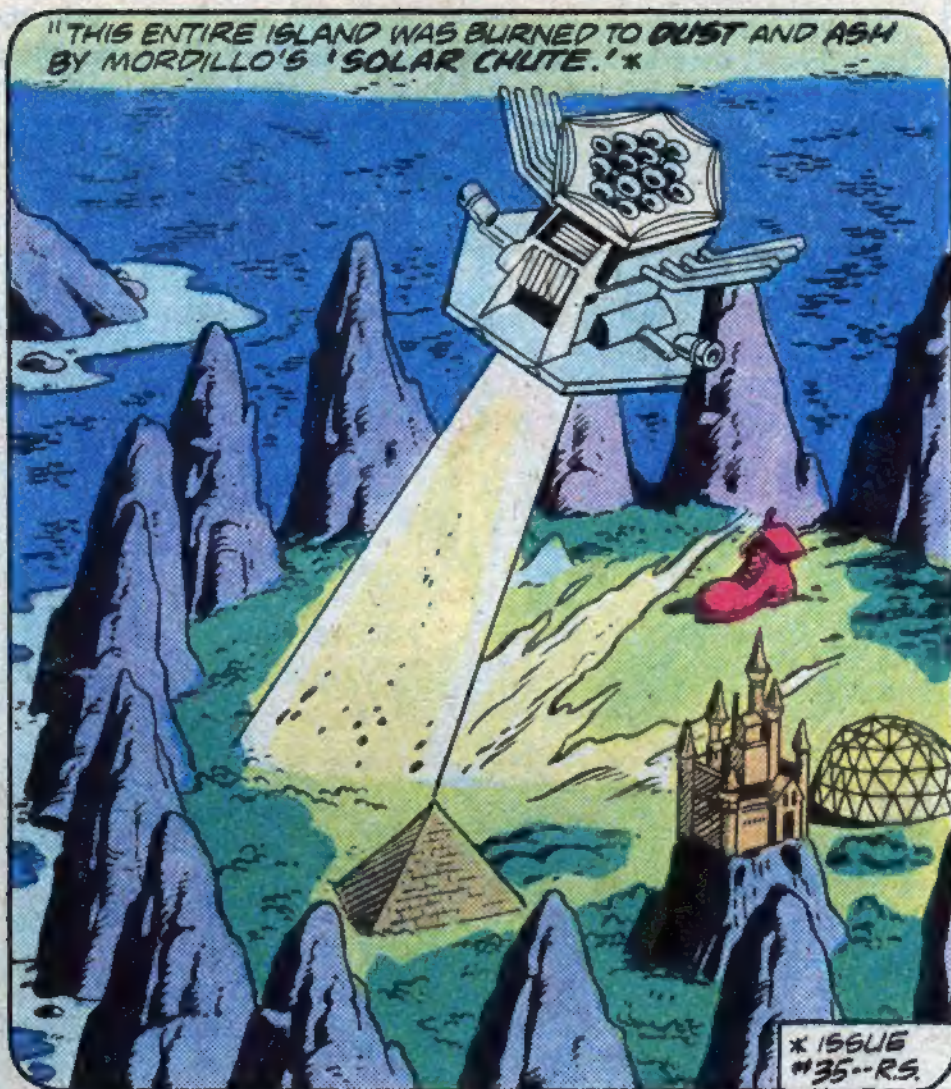
BRUCE PATTERSON
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COLORIST

JIM SHOOTER
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

ROGER STERN
EDITOR

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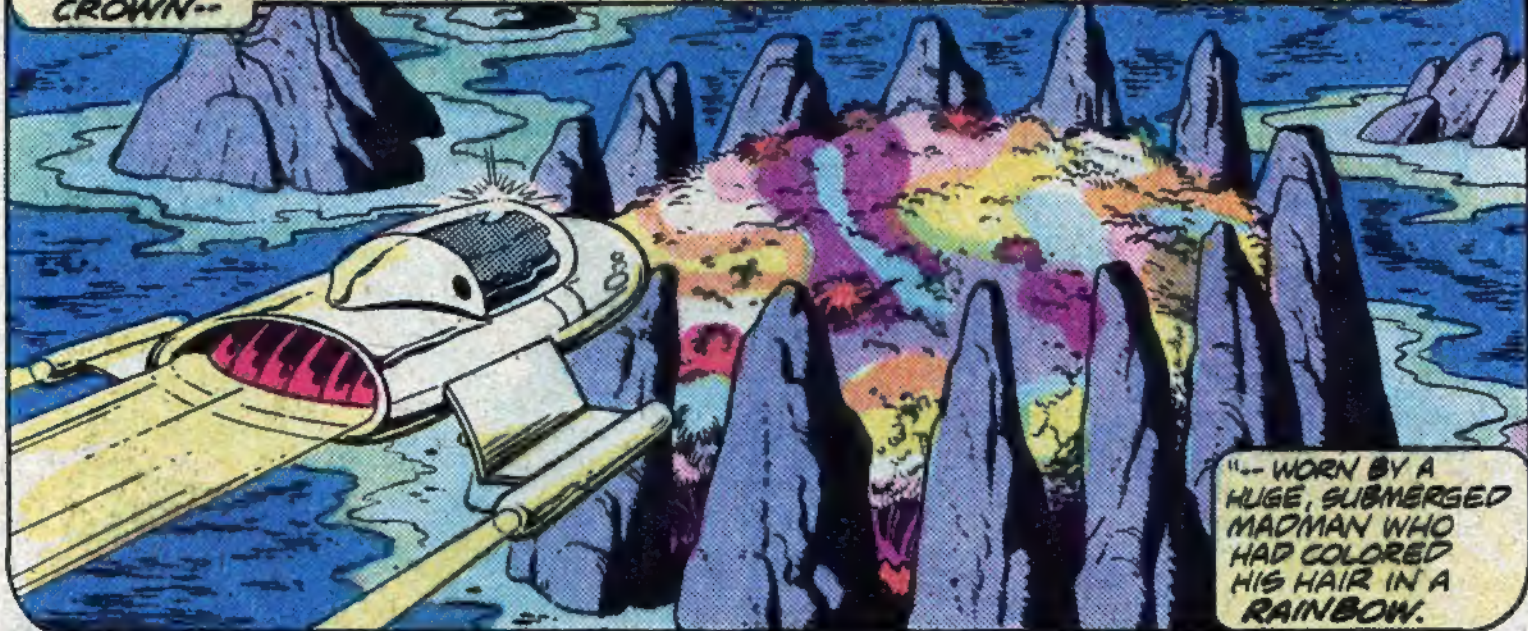


AND NOW... ALL THIS LUSH GROWTH...

LUSH AND STRANGE, SHANG-- UNIQUE, IN FACT. I'LL BET YOU CAN'T FIND VEGETATION LIKE THIS-- SO WEIRDLY SHAPED AND COLORED-- ANYWHERE ELSE IN THE WORLD.



"...EVEN AS WE APPROACHED THE ISLAND ONLY MINUTES PAST, THE CHANGE WAS IMMEDIATELY CLEAR. SO TALL AND DENSE HAS THE JUNGLE GROWN THAT IT RESEMBLED THE TOP OF A HEAD, AND THUS DID THE ROCK-SPIKES TRULY TAKE ON THE CAST OF A CROWN--

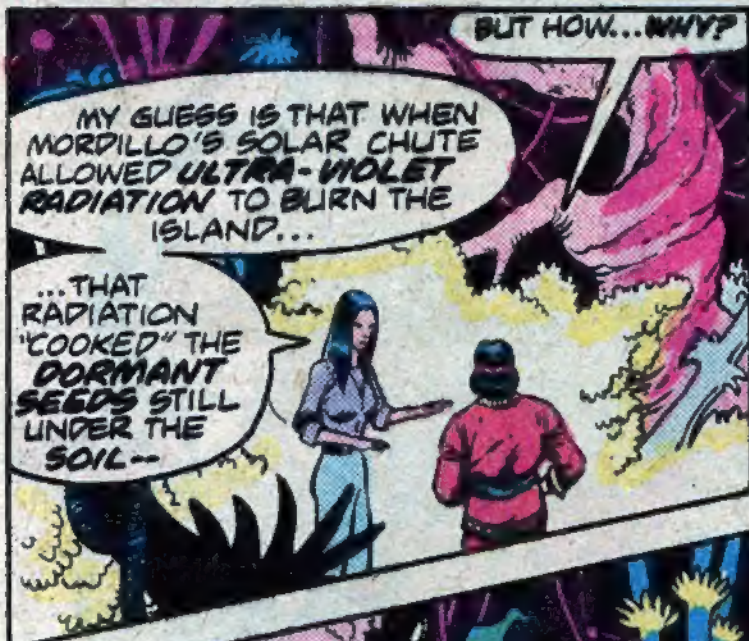


"-- WORN BY A HUGE, SUBMERGED MADMAN WHO HAD COLORED HIS HAIR IN A RAINBOW.

BUT HOW...WHY?

MY GUESS IS THAT WHEN MORDILLO'S SOLAR CHUTE ALLOWED ULTRA-VIOLET RADIATION TO BURN THE ISLAND...

...THAT RADIATION 'COOKED' THE DORMANT SEEDS STILL UNDER THE SOIL--



-- AND THEN THESE MUTATED PLANTS EVENTUALLY SPRANG UP THROUGH THE ASHES.

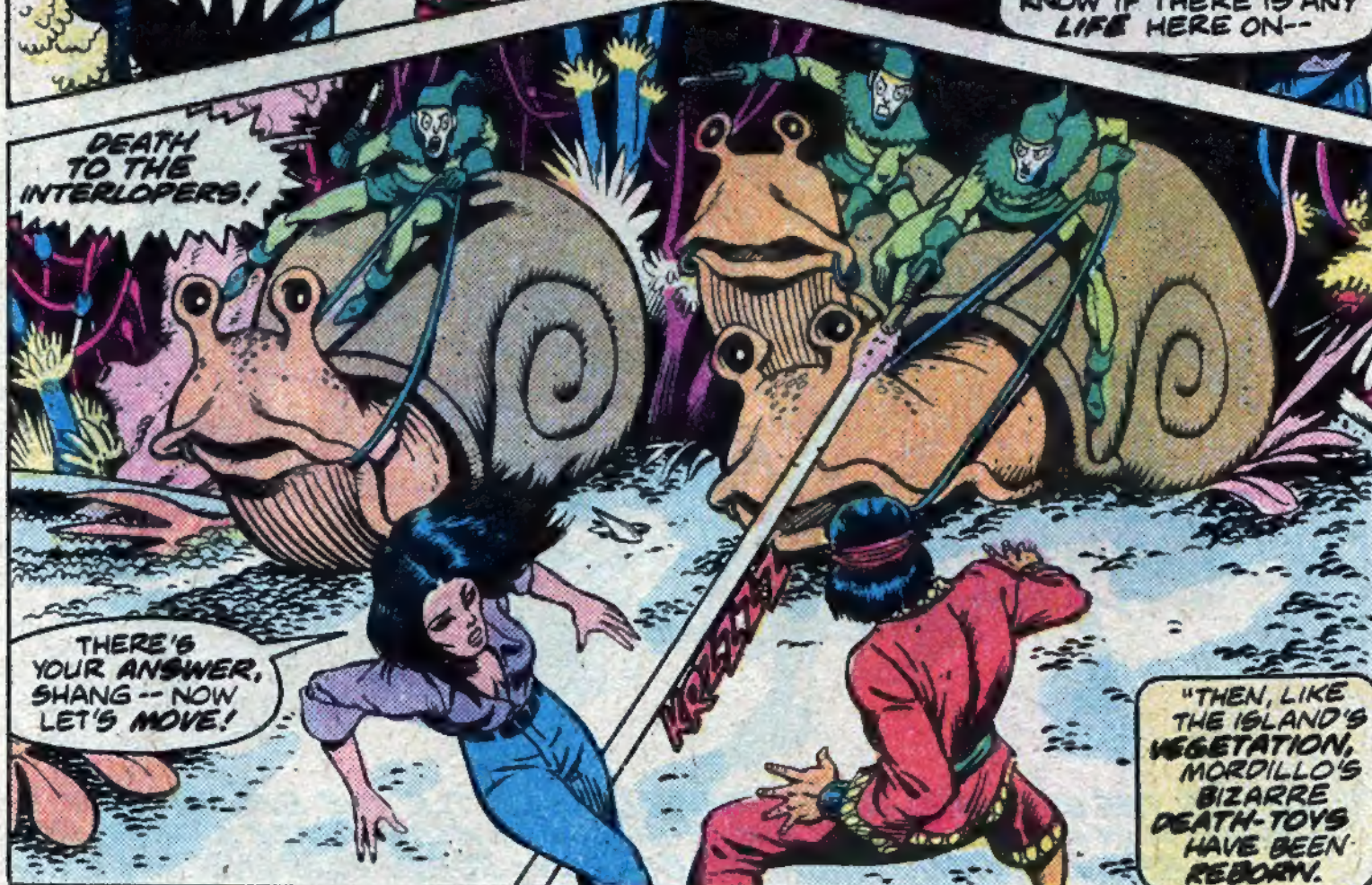
BUT OTHER THAN THE JUNGLE ITSELF--

--WE STILL DON'T KNOW IF THERE IS ANY LIFE HERE ON--



DEATH TO THE INTERLOPERS!

THERE'S YOUR ANSWER, SHANG-- NOW LET'S MOVE!



"THEN, LIKE THE ISLAND'S VEGETATION, MORDILLO'S BIZARRE DEATH-TOYS HAVE BEEN REBORN.

THEY CAME FROM INNER SPACE!

THE MICRONAUTS!

...ARE
HERE!

ON
SALE
NOW!

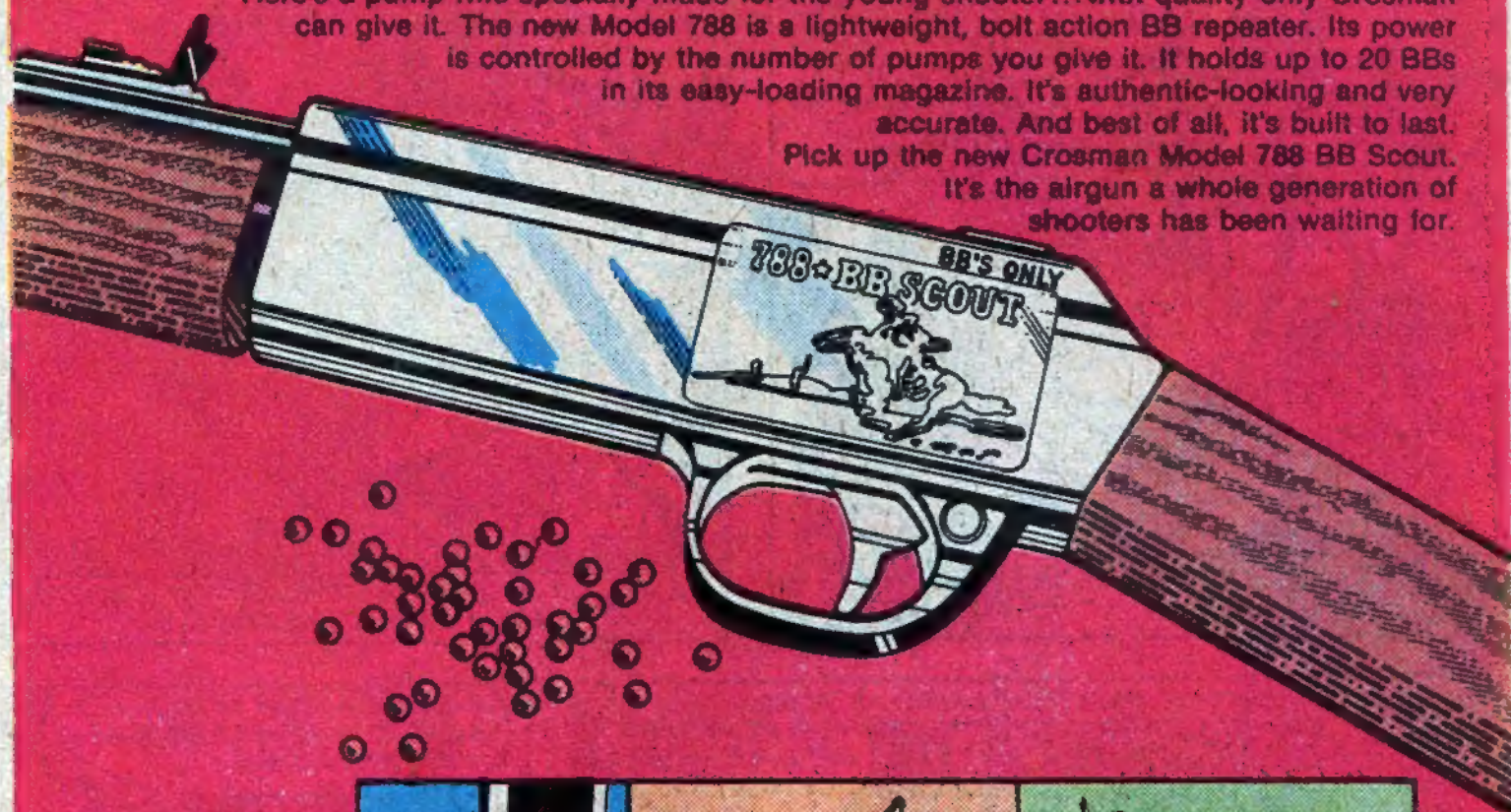


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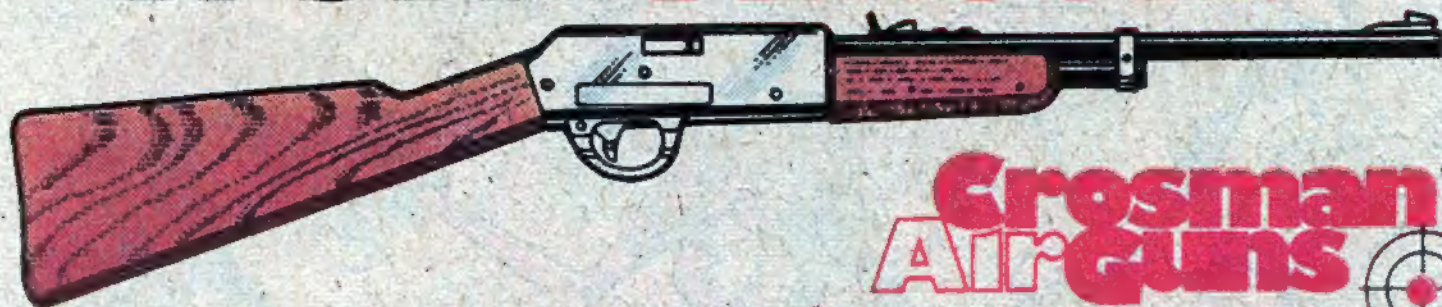


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Easy pump action

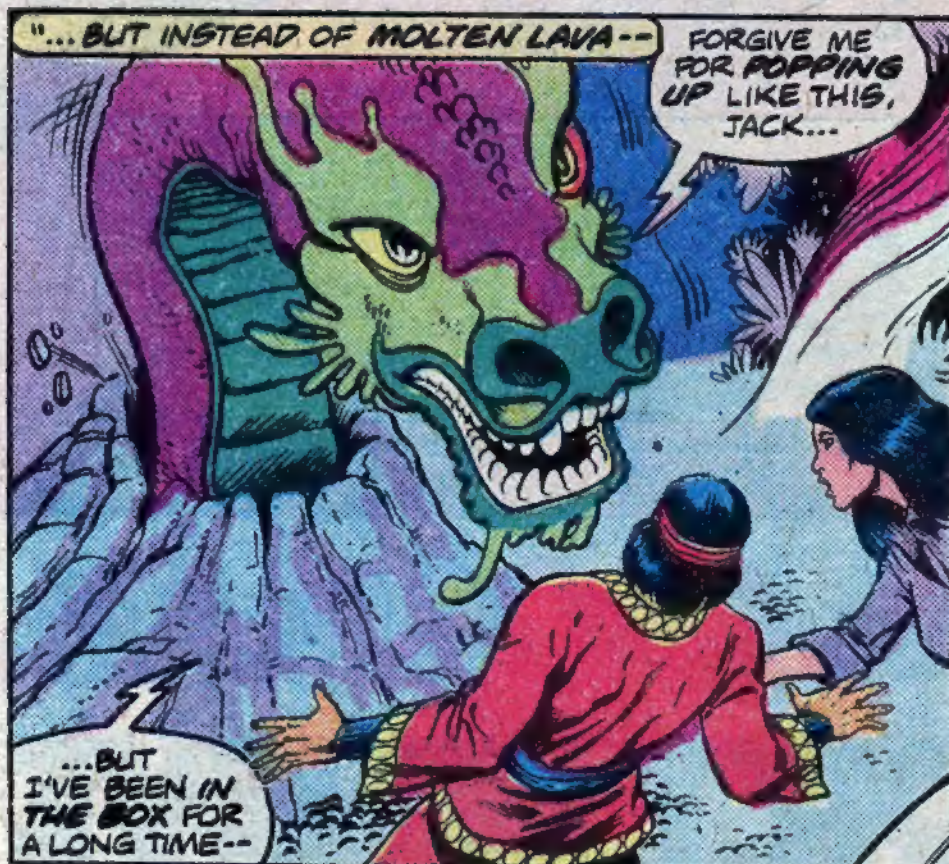
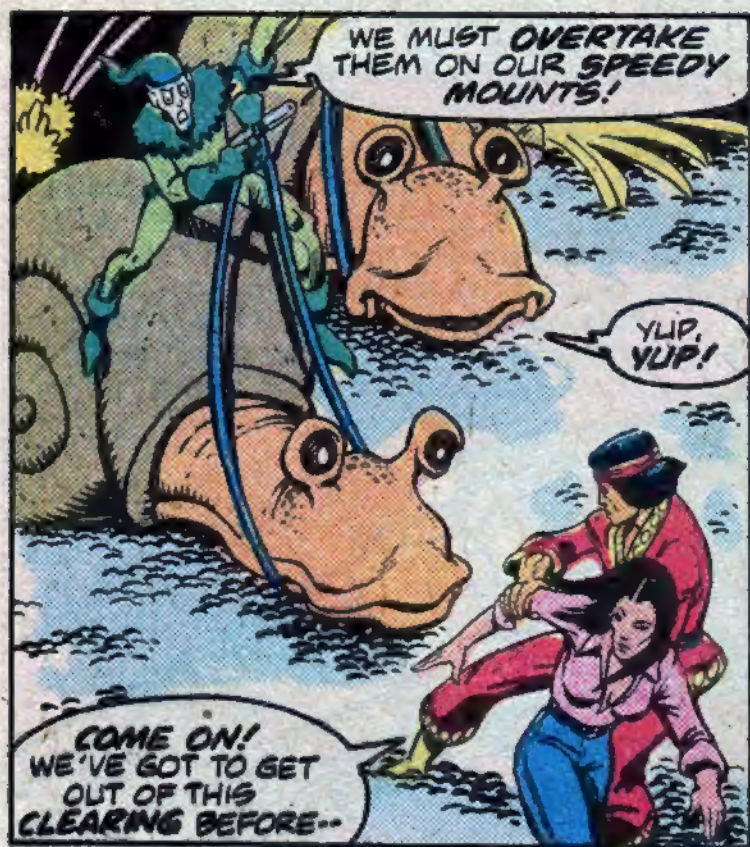
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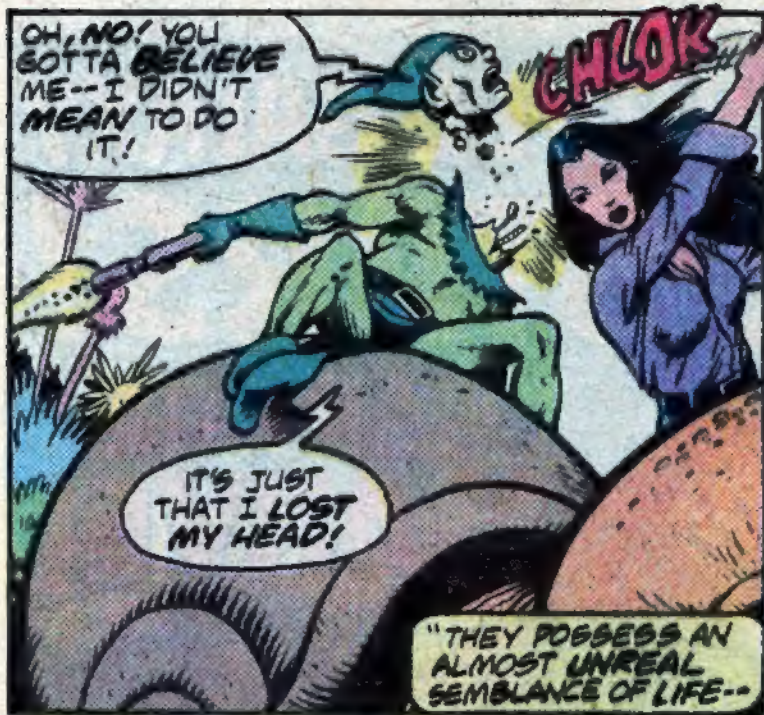


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NOVA

**CAPTAIN
MARVEL**

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AT YOUR
NEWSSTAND
NOT VERY
FAR, FAR,
AWAY!

THE
INCREDIBLE

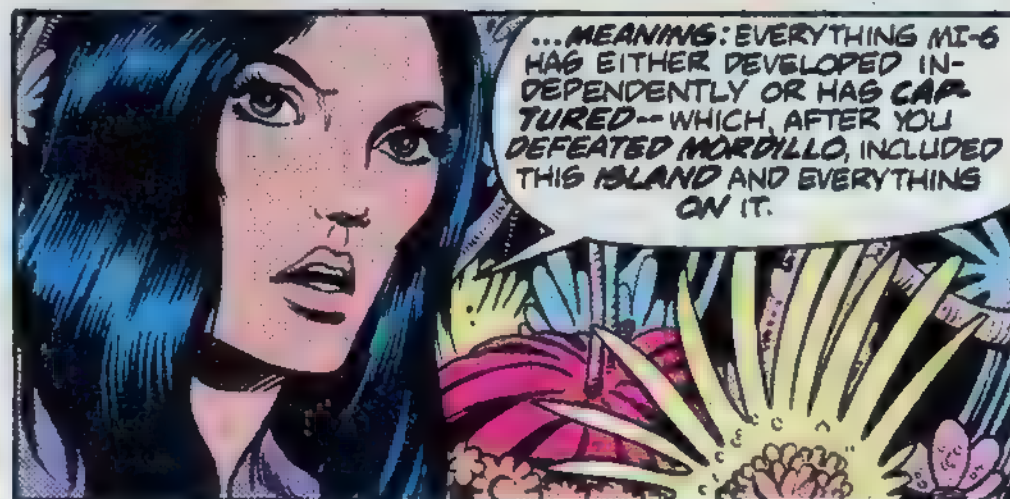
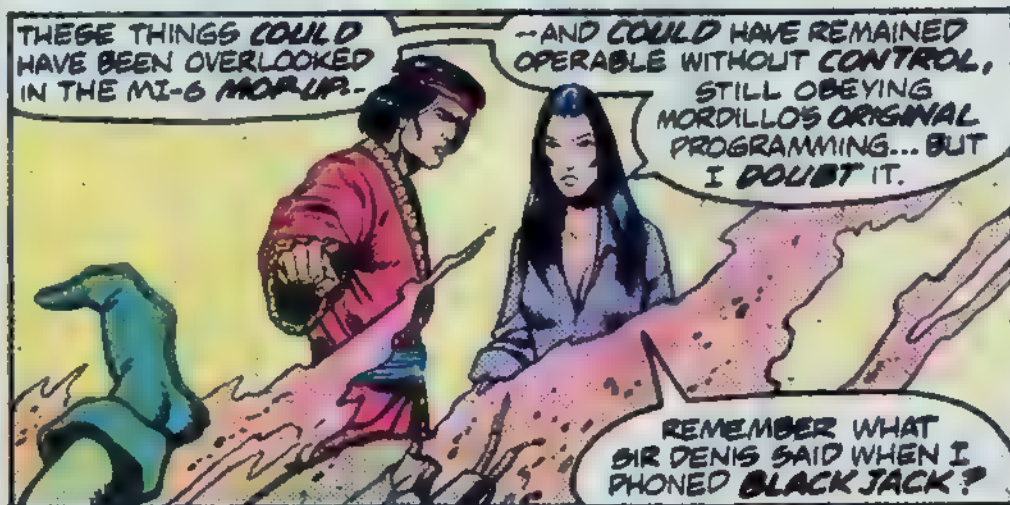
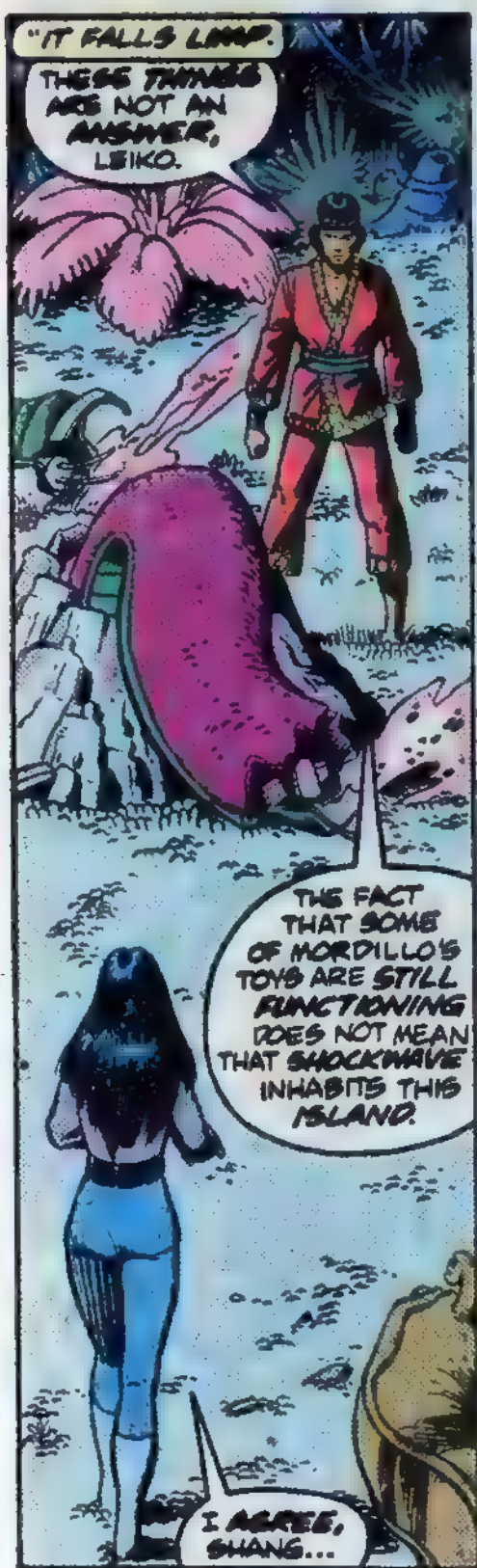
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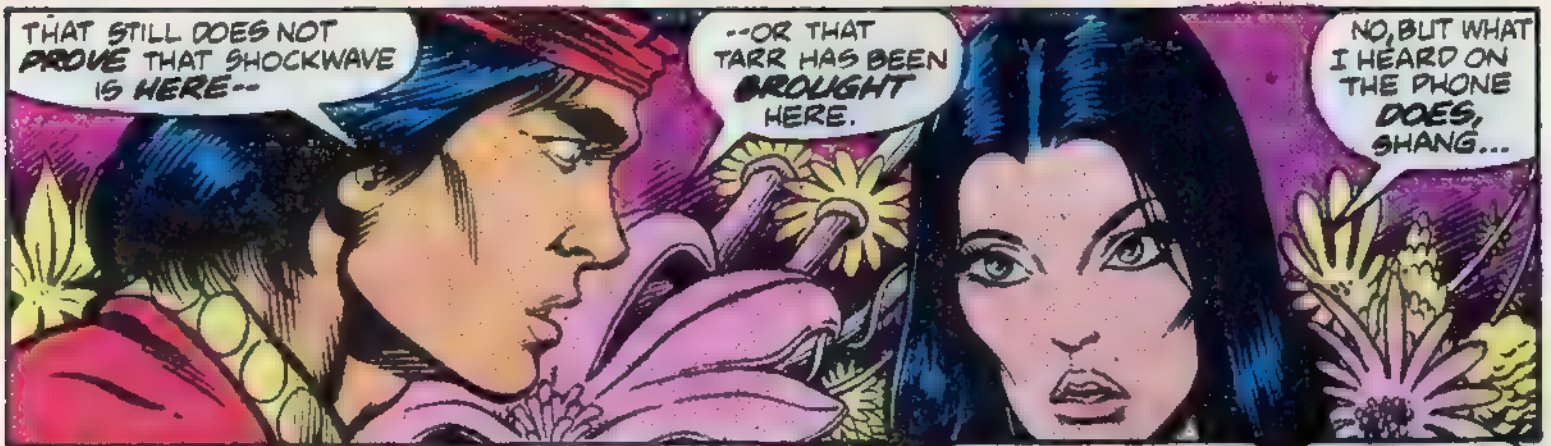
THE HANDS OF SHANG CHI

**MASTER OF
KUNG FU**

DAREDEVIL

THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR!





THAT STILL DOES NOT
PROVE THAT SHOCKWAVE
IS HERE--

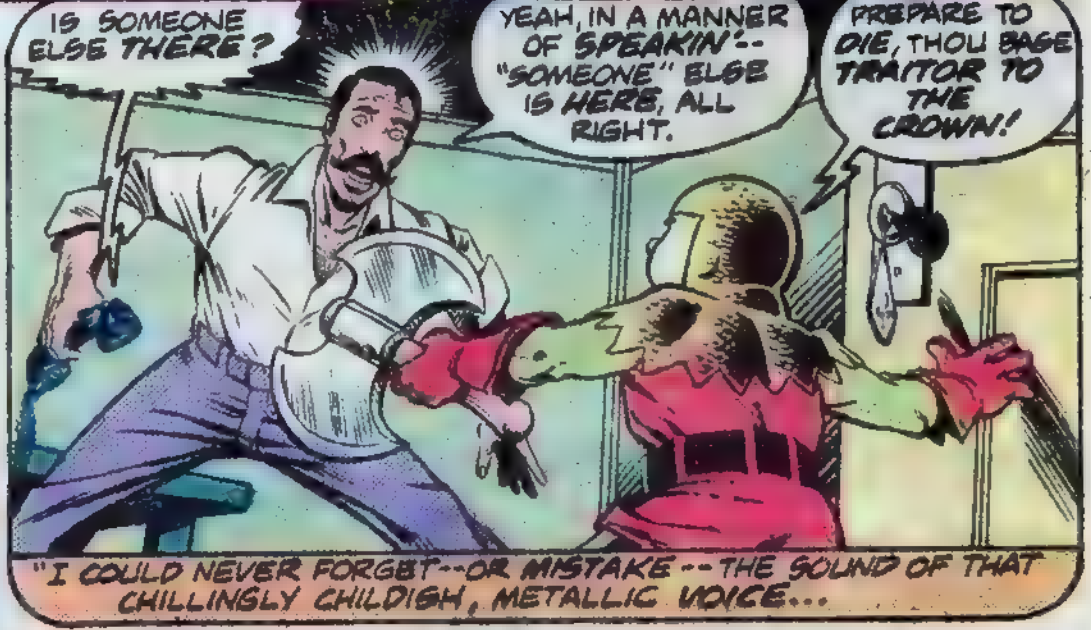
--OR THAT
TARR HAS BEEN
BROUGHT
HERE.

NO, BUT WHAT
I HEARD ON
THE PHONE
DOES,
SHANG...



"HE'D DROPPED HIS
PHONE..."

BLACK JACK--
WHAT'S WRONG?!

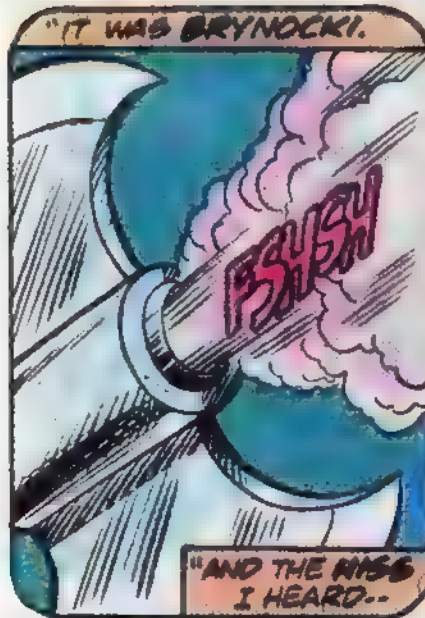


IS SOMEONE
ELSE THERE?

YEAH, IN A MANNER
OF SPEAKIN'--
"SOMEONE" ELGE
IS HERE, ALL
RIGHT.

PREPARE TO
DIE, THOU BASE
TRAITOR TO
THE
CROWN!

"I COULD NEVER FORGET--OR MISTAKE--THE SOUND OF THAT
CHILLINGLY CHILDISH, METALLIC VOICE..."



"IT WAS BRYNOCKI.

"AND THE KISS
I HEARD--



"--WAS FOLLOWED
BY THE SOUND OF
BLACK JACK
COUGHING..."



"...AND THEN A
HEAVY THUD.

AND GO TO
SLEEP,
BIG BOY.

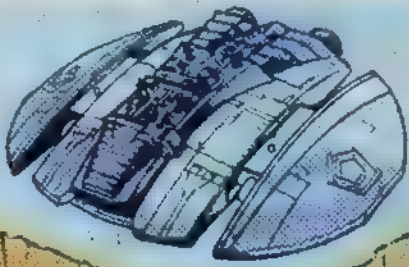
"IT HAD TO
BE GAS,
SHANG--"



--AND WHEN WE FOUND BLACK
JACK'S ROOM EMPTY, WITH
THE PHONE STILL OFF THE
HOOK, THERE WAS NO OTHER
POSSIBILITY.

I'D BET
MY LIFE
THAT SHOCK-
WAVE AND
BRYNOCKI
HAVE BROUGHT
BLACK JACK
HERE...

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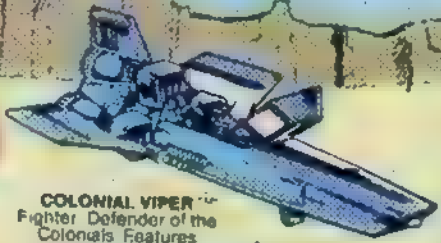


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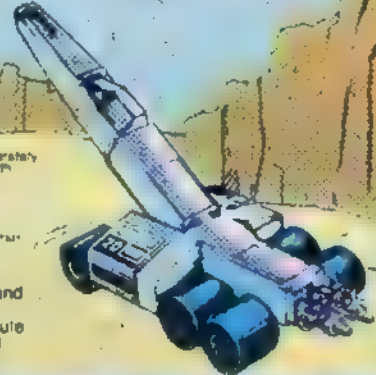


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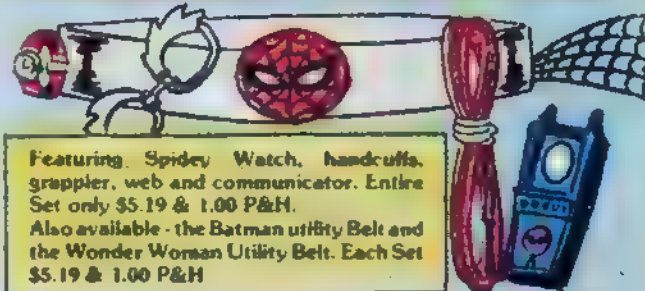


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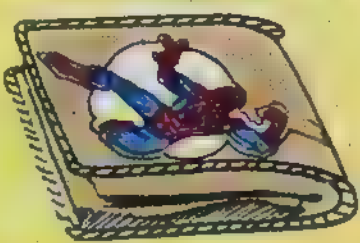
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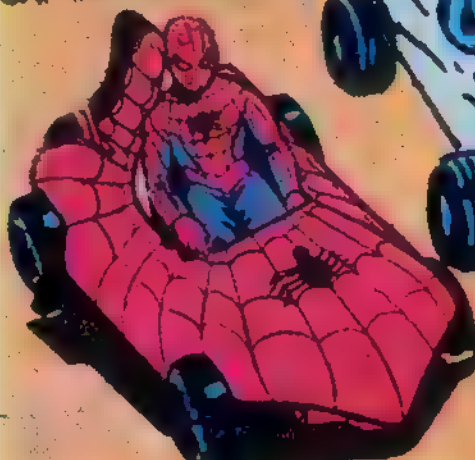
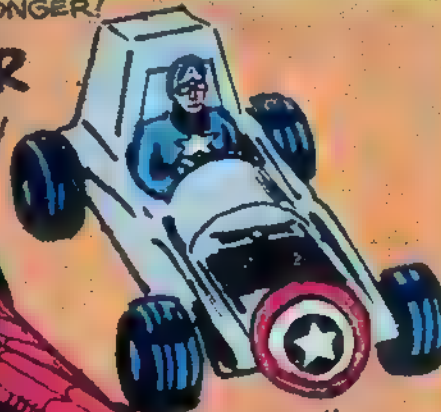
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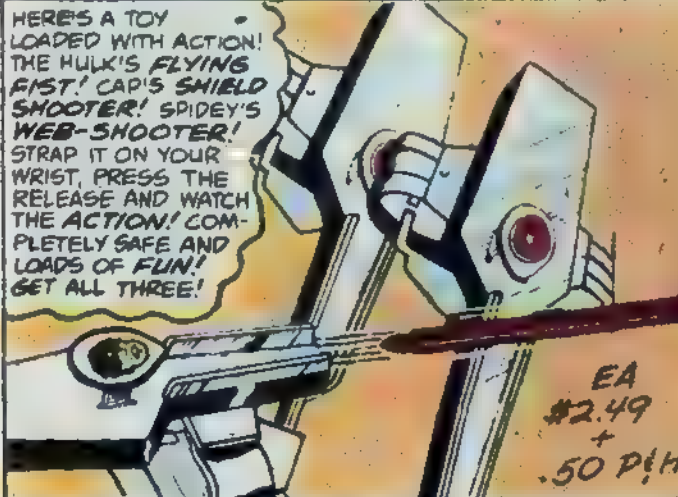
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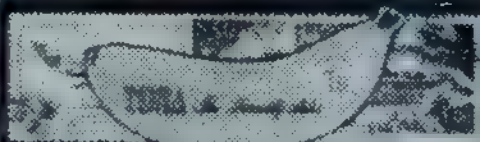
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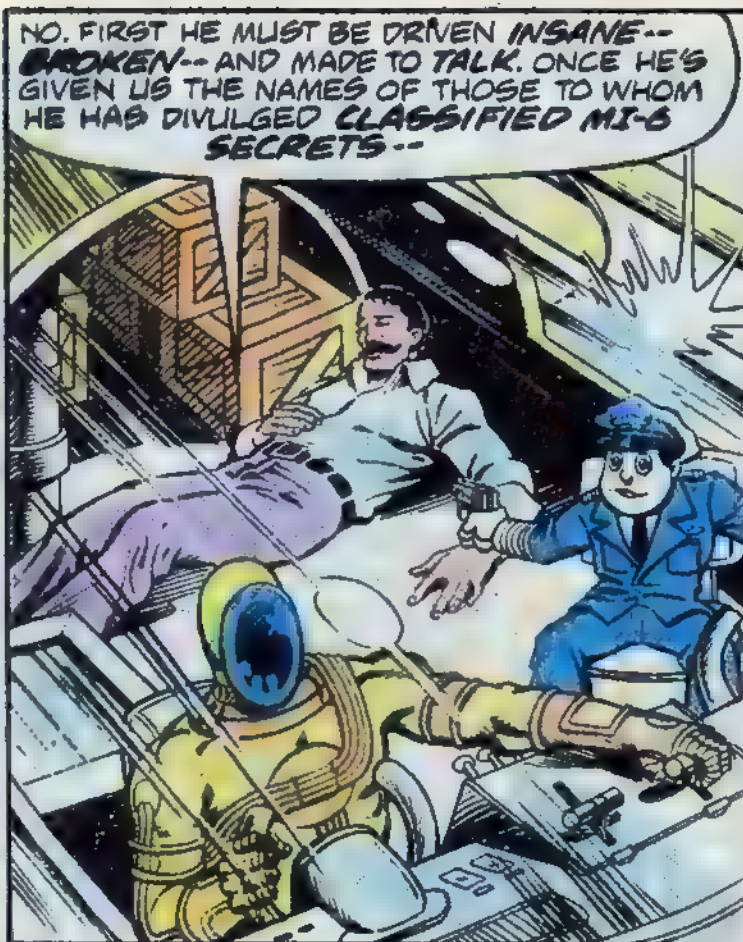
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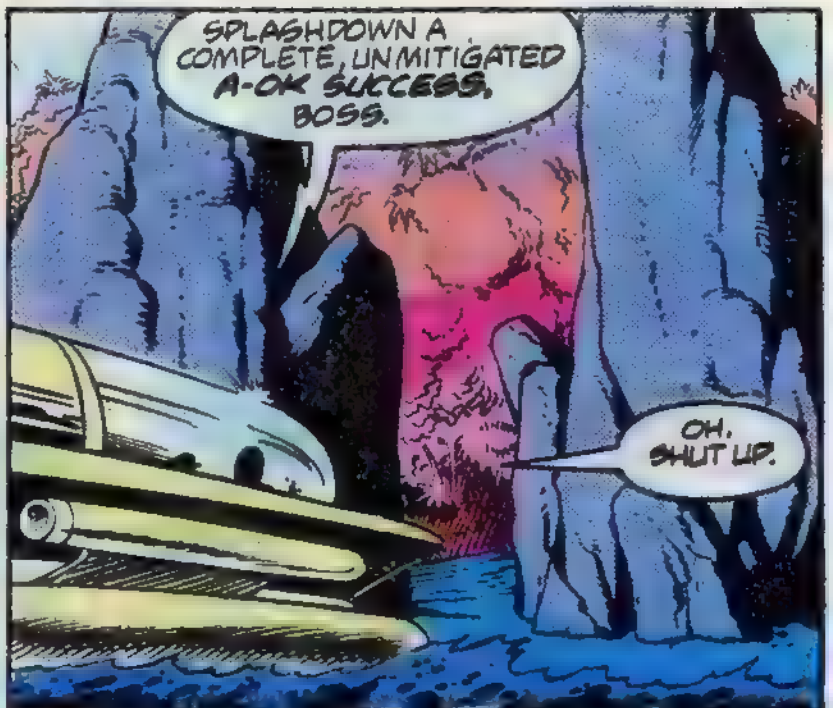
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WISH THE CANOPY
WEREN'T SO
DENSE--CAN'T
SEE A THING
UP THERE...

BUT WE
CAN HEAR IT,
LEIKO--LISTEN--
IT'S GOING DOWN
ON THE OTHER
SIDE OF THE
ISLAND...

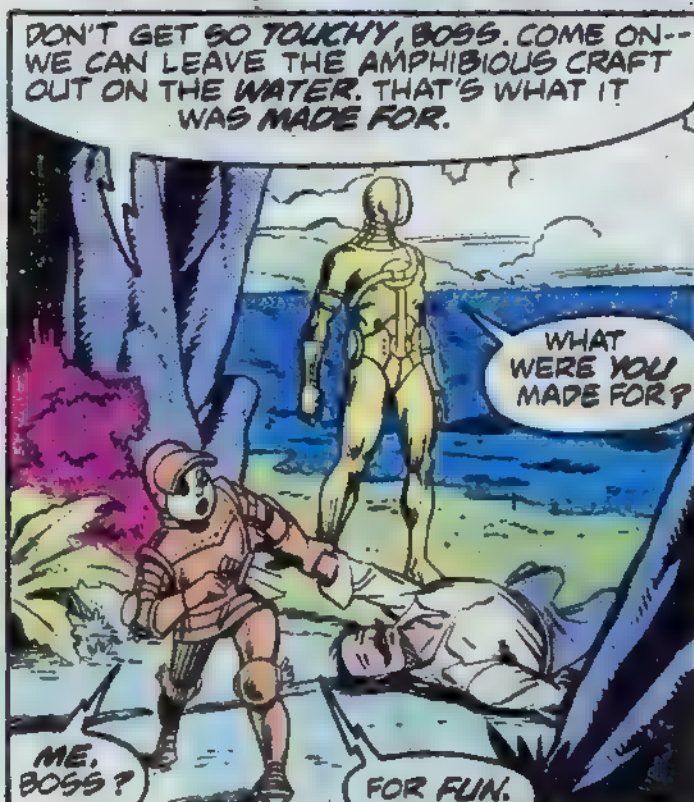


SPLASHDOWN A
COMPLETE, UNMITIGATED
A-OK SUCCESS,
BOSS.

OH,
SHUT UP.



IT'LL TAKE US FOR-
EVER TO GET ACROSS
THE ISLAND THROUGH
THIS JUNGLE. WONDER
WHO IT COULD BE?

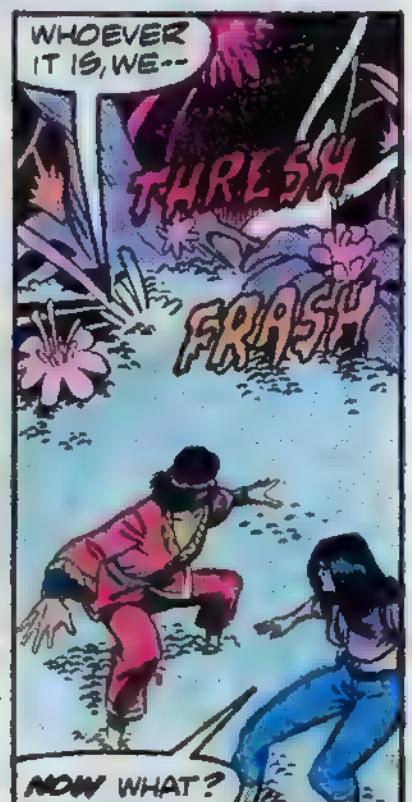


DON'T GET SO TOUCHY, BOSS. COME ON--
WE CAN LEAVE THE AMPHIBIOUS CRAFT
OUT ON THE WATER. THAT'S WHAT IT
WAS MADE FOR.

WHAT
WERE YOU
MADE FOR?

ME,
BOSS?

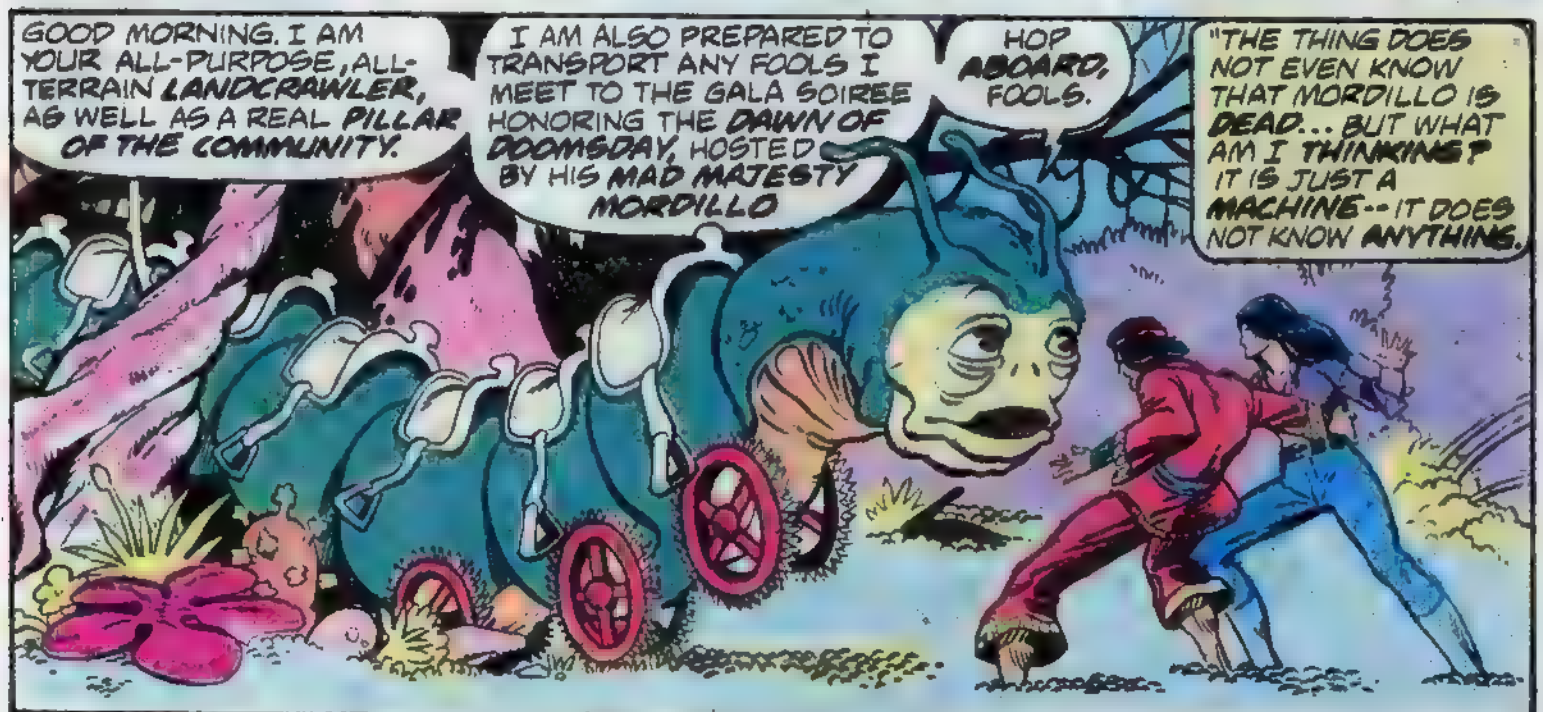
FOR FUN.



WHOEVER
IT IS, WE--

THRESH
FRASH

NOW WHAT?

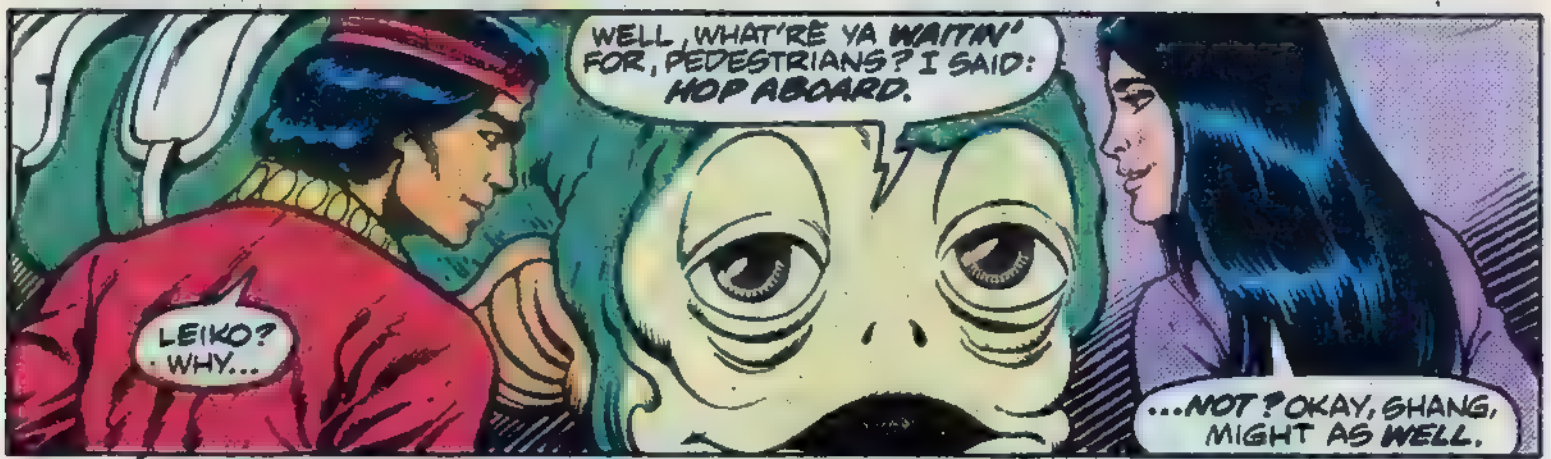


GOOD MORNING. I AM
YOUR ALL-PURPOSE, ALL-
TERRAIN LANDCRAWLER,
AS WELL AS A REAL PILLAR
OF THE COMMUNITY.

I AM ALSO PREPARED TO
TRANSPORT ANY FOOLS I
MEET TO THE GALA SOIREE
HONORING THE DAWN OF
DOOMSDAY, HOSTED
BY HIS MAD MAJESTY
MORDILLO

HOP
ABOARD,
FOOLS.

"THE THING DOES
NOT EVEN KNOW
THAT MORDILLO IS
DEAD... BUT WHAT
AM I THINKING?
IT IS JUST A
MACHINE--IT DOES
NOT KNOW ANYTHING.



WELL, WHAT'RE YA WAITIN' FOR, PEDESTRIANS? I SAID: HOP ABOARD.

LEIKO? WHY...

...NOT? OKAY, SHANG, MIGHT AS WELL.

PERHAPS IT'LL GET US ACROSS THE ISLAND FASTER.



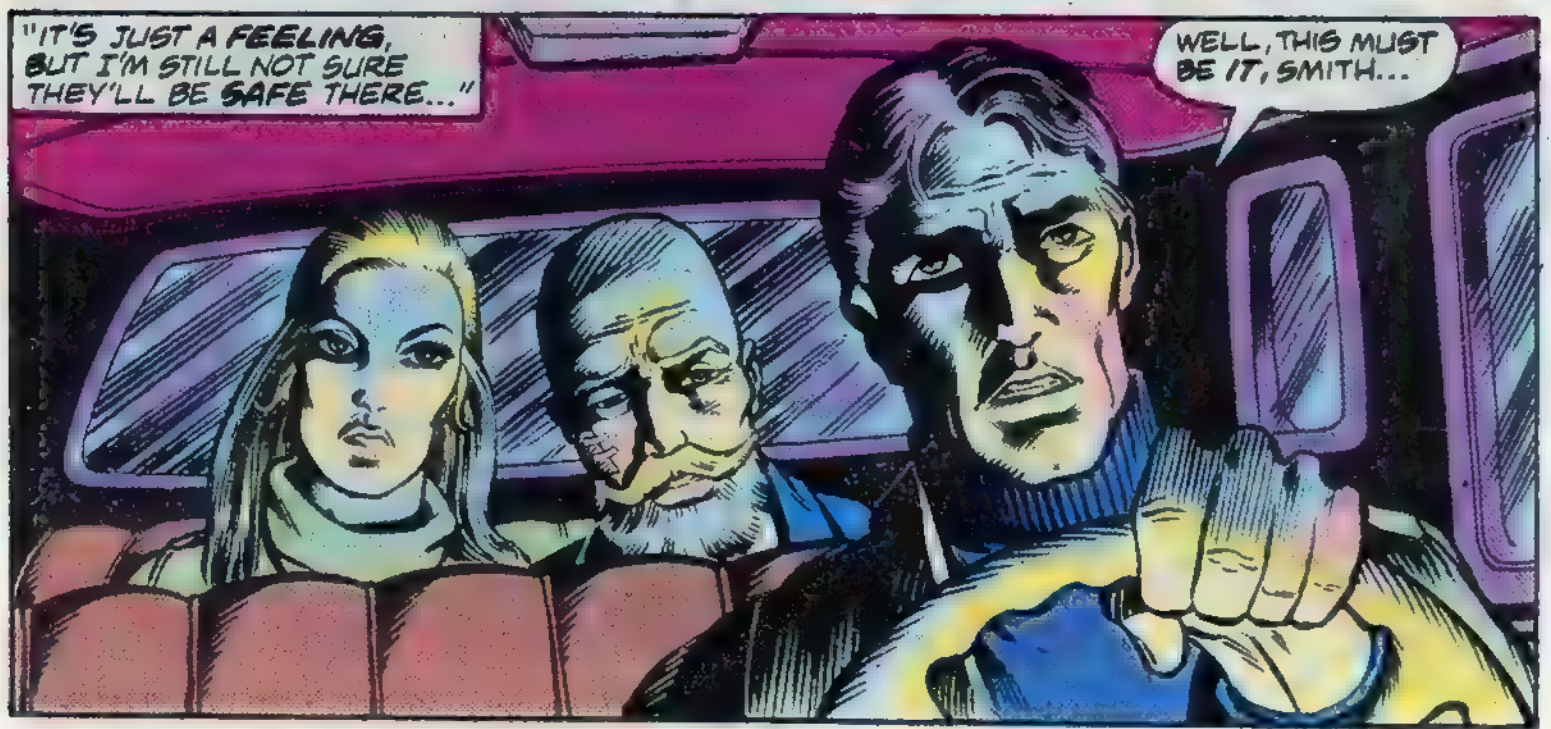
"IT DOES, ADAPTING WELL TO ITS NEW ENVIRONMENT, CONCEIVING NO OBSTACLES...

"...AND REMINDING ME OF THE 'PUFFERBELLY EXPRESS' RESTON AND I RODE IN THE PAST.



SAYVY, WATCH WHERE YOU'RE GOIN', BUB!

I HOPE CLIVE AND SIR DENIS MADE THE RIGHT CHOICE, SHANG...



"IT'S JUST A FEELING, BUT I'M STILL NOT SURE THEY'LL BE SAFE THERE..."

WELL, THIS MUST BE IT, SMITH...

... A PERFECT SETTING FOR ONE OF MY GREAT-UNCLE'S MORE CREEPY ADVENTURES. SURE THERE AREN'T ANY DEMON-HOUNDS HAUNTING THESE MOORS?



THIS ESTATE HAS BEEN IN THE SCOTTISH SIDE OF MY FAMILY FOR CENTURIES, CLIVE--

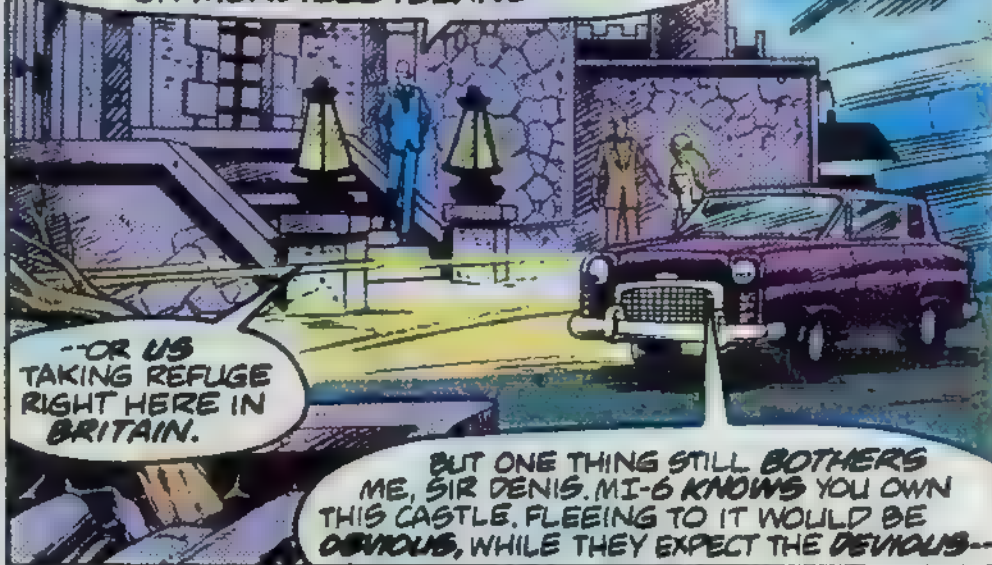
--AND WHILE NUMEROUS LEGENDS ATTEND IT, NOT ONE CONCERNS A SPECTRAL HOUND.



BUT IS IT SAFE FROM LESS SUPERNATURAL PREDATORS? WHY DON'T YOU RUN THROUGH YOUR RATIONALE AGAIN SMITH? I NEED REASSURING.

MI-6 INCUICATES DUPLICITY, CLIVE-- YOU KNOW THAT.

THEY'LL HAVE AGENTS LOOKING FOR US IN MOROCCO, ZANZIBAR, SWITZERLAND, BUT THE LAST THING THEY'LL EXPECT IS THE OBVIOUS, SUCH AS LEIKO AND SHANG-CHI'S DIRECT ASSAULT ON MORDILLO ISLAND--



--OR US TAKING REFUGE RIGHT HERE IN BRITAIN.

BUT ONE THING STILL BOTHERS ME, SIR DENIS. MI-6 KNOWS YOU OWN THIS CASTLE. FLEEING TO IT WOULD BE OBVIOUS, WHILE THEY EXPECT THE DEVIOUS--

--BUT WHAT IF DOING THE OBVIOUS HAS BECOME THE DEVIOUS THING TO DO?

WHAT IF THEY DOUBLE-THINK US?



THEY WILL, MISS GREVILLE--

--BUT THEY WILL QUICKLY DISCOUNT THIS CASTLE WHEN THEY TRIPLE-THINK US.



THEN MIGHTN'T THEY GO ONE STEP FURTHER--



--AND QUADRUPLE-THINK US?

"HMM... I HADN'T THOUGHT OF THAT...!"



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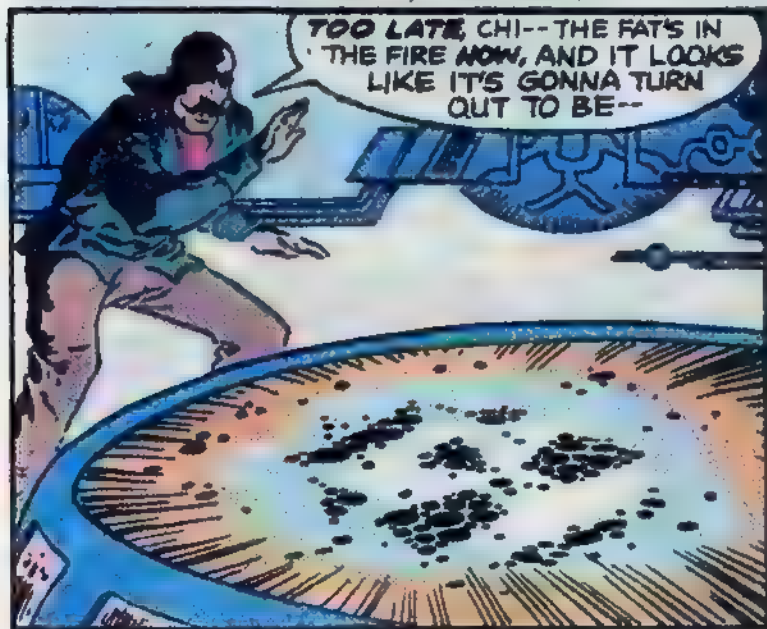
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ROGER STERN
EDITOR
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ANNOUNCING — AT LAST! — THE WINNERS OF THE COMPLEAT COMICS CONNOISSEUR CONTEST

The time has come, People, to wrap up the contest announced in MOKF #61 and based on the story presented in MOKF #59: "The Phoenix Gambit; Part I: The Temples of Time." And yes, the plural "winners" is intentional, as will be explained shortly. But first, to refresh your memories and to finally Reveal All, herewith the original questions coupled with their correct answers. . .

1) The story's true villain is actually *seen* (albeit as a "subliminal visage") as early as page 17. Who is the villain? In which panel does he appear? And from which character's viewpoint is he seen? (Warning: This clue is so subtle and well hidden that even the colorist failed to notice it, so look hard.)



Answers: The story's true villain, at least in the *literal* sense, is of course DR. DOOM. His "subliminal visage" appears in the fifth panel of page 17, seen as "energy dots" on the floor of the dais from Black Jack Tarr's viewpoint. (This was the real toughie, but inadvertently so, inasmuch as Doug prepared the contest questions before he had a chance to see the printed issue. Not only did the colorist obscure the Dr. Doom features, but the inker also partially missed the significant configuration of those dots as rendered in Mike Zeck's pencils. Nevertheless, if you look hard enough—from Black Jack's nearly upside-down viewpoint—it is still possible to discern Dr. Doom's familiar metallic eyeholes, triangular nose, and mouth-gaps. Unfortunately, the fact that Black Jack's black mustache was incorrectly inked/colored white, and his jacket incorrectly colored blue—with the result that he somewhat resembles Nayland Smith—only compounded the confusion. Sheesh! Of all panels for the inker and colorist to make no less than *five goofs*. . .! Ah well, since it was nigh impossible under these circumstances to answer every portion of the contest correctly, we of course will not hold it against you. Indeed, even though all the questions were answered correctly somewhere or another among all the entries, no *single* contestant was able to do so. Thus, we are awarding *double* prizes—one set to each of the two entrants who came *closest* to succeeding. Their letters and names round out this page.)

2) What is the double significance of the name "Amar-Tu"? (Hint: One is a partial anagram and the other a bad pun.)

Answers: The partial anagram is RAMA-TUT, allegedly the ancient Egyptian incarnation of Dr. Doom. The bad pun—in a foreign language, no less—is "amor tu" or, roughly, "love to you." And, from page 22, we quote Amar-Tu: "I fill you with. . . *love*."

3) Cite at least two other clues presented in the story.

Answers: Any of the following clues would have been acceptable. . . 1) The pyramid motif, hinting at Rama-Tut's Egyptian origin; 2) Doom's castle, first seen on page 11; 3) The Prime-Mover's distinctive, hyphenated speech pattern, again first exhibited on page 11; 4) The extensive use of robots, a favorite Dr. Doom ploy; 5) The Prime-Mover's metal hand and the Reston chesspiece, finally seen on page 30; and 6) The title of the story itself—"The Phoenix Gambit"—"gambit" being chess terminology foreshadowing Doom's game as explicitly revealed on page 31 (and previously documented by Jim Steranko way back when), and "Phoenix" referring to Chi's dead foes "returning from the ashes"—and, if not as *robots*, then *how*? (Also, the cover copy and bits of dialogue sprinkled here & there—e.g. in referring to the prior chess match as "lost pieces of the past.")

Okay, those are the answers which, in our agonized judgment, were most closely approximated by the following two entries. . . Dear Doug and Mike,

1) The story's true villain appears on page 17, panel 5, in the circular grid (foreground), and from Black Jack's viewpoint. If you hold the page almost upside-down, you can see Doom's eyes, nose, and mouth.

2) The anagram connected with "Amar" is "Rama" and the pun on "Tu" is none other than "two." In other words, Rama-Tut the Second.

3) Obvious clues are the castle scenes on pages 11 and 26. Another clue deals with the pyramids, a second reference to Rama-Tut. And the words found on the cover: "Behold! The Angel of DOOM!"

Brian M. Kane
R.D. #2 Box 40

Jeannette, PA 15644

Dear Doug and Co.,

1) The villain of the story is Dr. Doom, yes, but the *true* villain (my italics differing from yours, and *you* write of the insidiousness of Fu Manchu) is DEATH. The panel in which he (it?) appears is the fifth one of page 17. He appears in the dot pattern on the platform and can be seen by rotating the page 135 degrees clockwise. The point of view is a bit tricky; the character is really Black Jack Tarr, although colored as Smith is colored in previous panels. However, lack of a beard and the shorter coat both indicate that this is Black Jack, the choice of his words clinching it.

2) The partial anagram for "Amar-Tu" is "trauma." The pun is that "amar tu" means "I love you" in several languages, and the pun is actually a fairly good one.

3) Other clues were the early glimpses of the Dr. Doom castle on page 11 and page 26. More subtle, however, was the referral to the chess game Doom plays with the Prime-Mover on the first page, in the line: "...flashing lost pieces of the past." Likewise on the first page is the line: "—the dominant image is. . . Death," again (or rather for the first time) naming the true villain of the piece.

Ron Lasner
2206 Garfield S.
Mpls., MN 55405

So, your slightly imperfect answers aside, congratulations, Brian and Ron! Your prizes—an autographed original plot manuscript and an autographed page of original artwork for each of you—are already on the way. Enjoy!

We hope everyone had fun with this contest and, just to close it out, how 'bout a final mini-contest: Can anyone explain the significance of the name "Shen Kuei" as it relates to Shang-Chi's own yin/yang character, and what kind of comparison/contrast between Cat and Chi can be drawn by that significance? (An autographed plot manuscript from Doug to the first reader with the best answer.)

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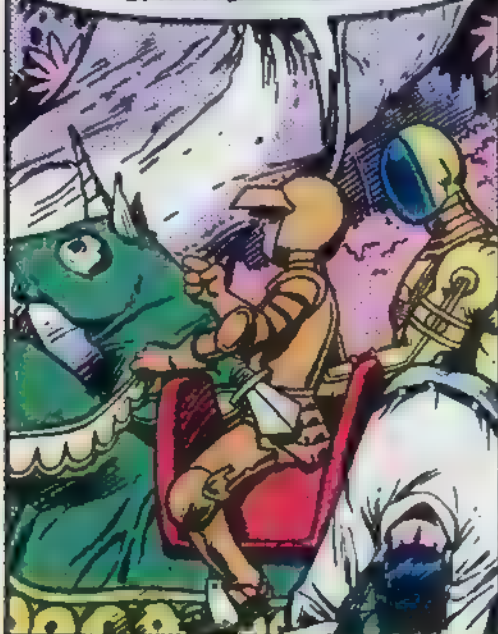
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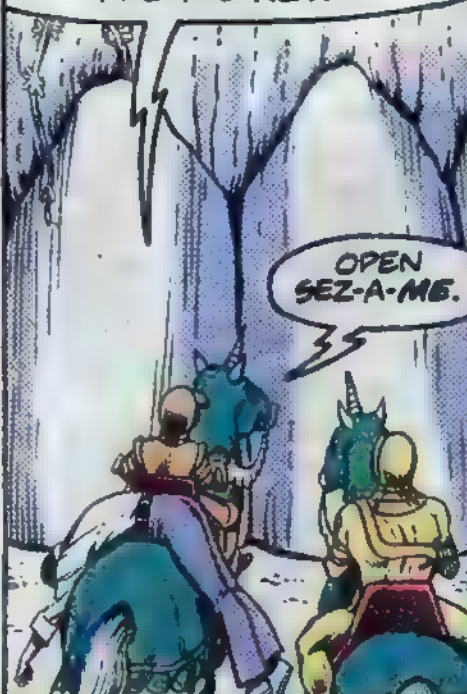
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WELL, HERE IT COMES, BOSS,
NEWLY ERECTED BY THOSE
WONDERFUL FOLKS AT MI-6
--THE CRANIAL CAVITY
CHAMBERS.



OKAY, UNI, DO YOUR VOICE-
PRINT STUFF. YOUR WORDS
ARE THE KEY.



OPEN
SEZ-A-ME.

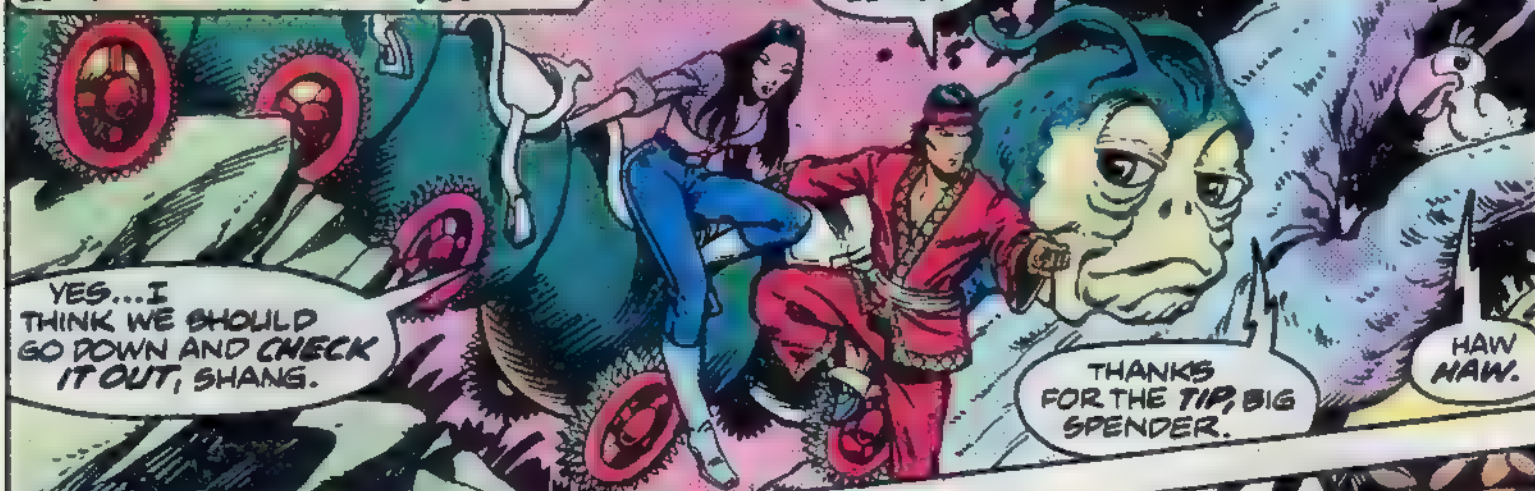
TALKING
UNICORNS-- WITH
AN ITALIAN ACCENT,
NO LESS.



WHY DO I HAVE
TO USE A STINKIN'
LUNATIC'S LEFTOVERS?

"WE HAVE NOT YET REACHED THE
EDGE OF THE ISLAND, BUT--

THERE,
LEIKO.



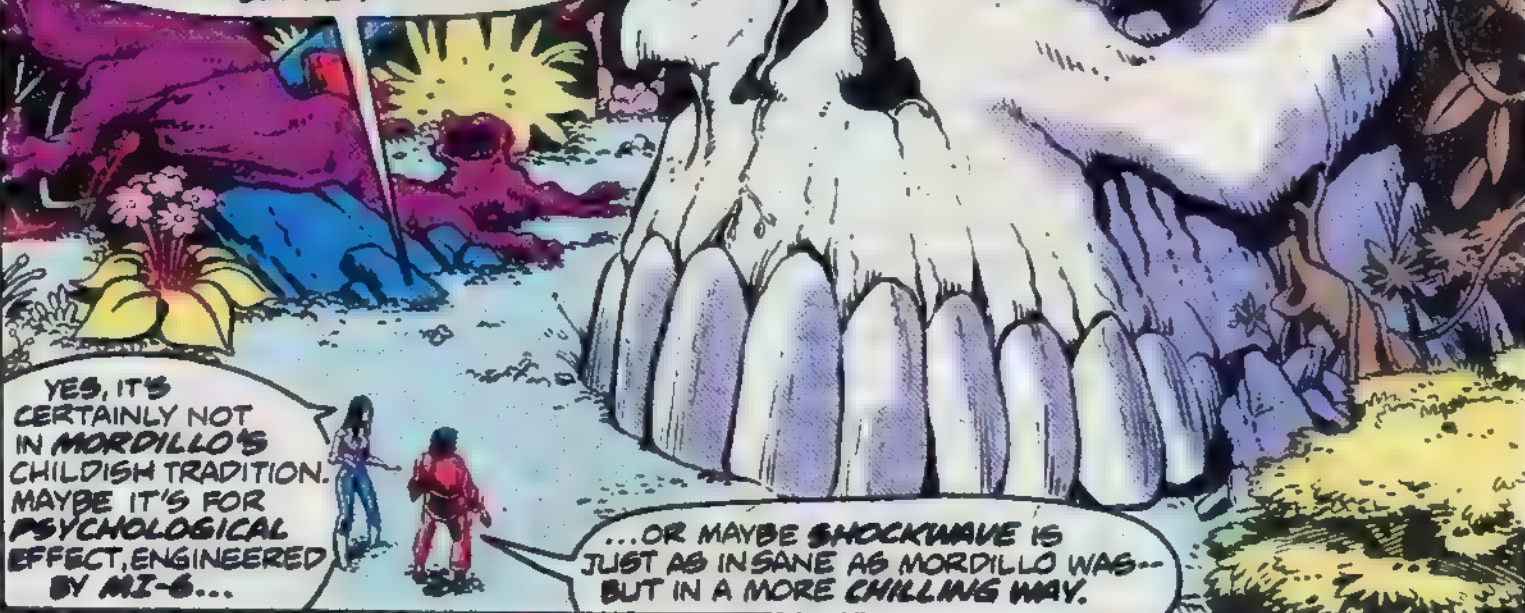
YES...I
THINK WE SHOULD
GO DOWN AND CHECK
IT OUT, SHANG.

THANKS
FOR THE TIP, BIG
SPENDER.

HAW
HAW.

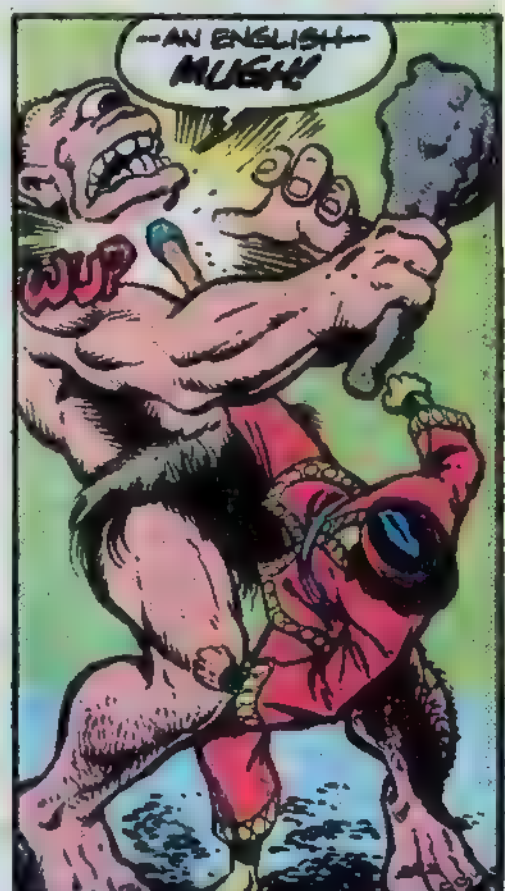
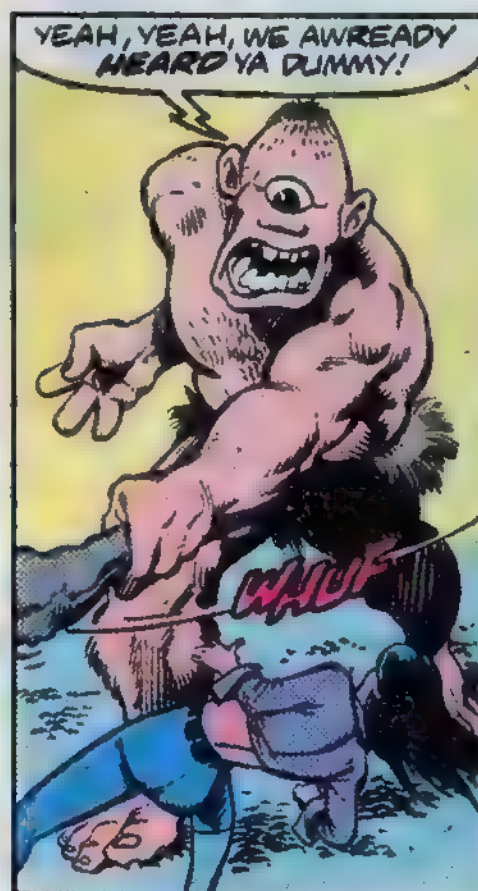
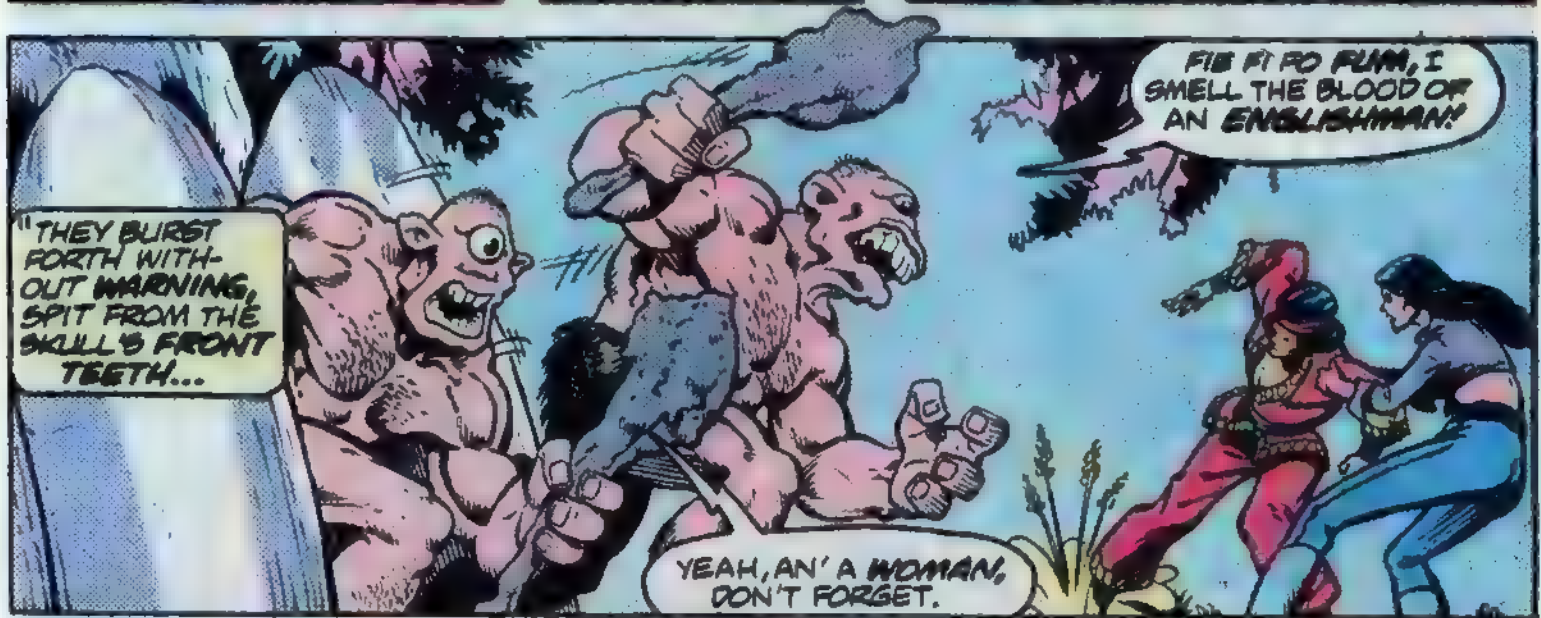
"IT IS... GROTESQUE... AND IT WAS
NOT HERE BEFORE.

THEN... WE STILL DON'T KNOW IF
THE OLD BUILDINGS HAVE BEEN RE-
STORED, BUT WE KNOW THEY HAVE
ERECTED AT LEAST ONE NEW
BUILDING. BUT WHY IN THIS
SHAPE?



YES, IT'S
CERTAINLY NOT
IN MORDILLO'S
CHILDISH TRADITION.
MAYBE IT'S FOR
PSYCHOLOGICAL
EFFECT, ENGINEERED
BY MI-6...

...OR MAYBE SHOCKWAVE IS
JUST AS INSANE AS MORDILLO WAS--
BUT IN A MORE CHILLING WAY.



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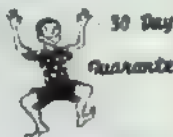
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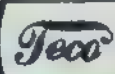
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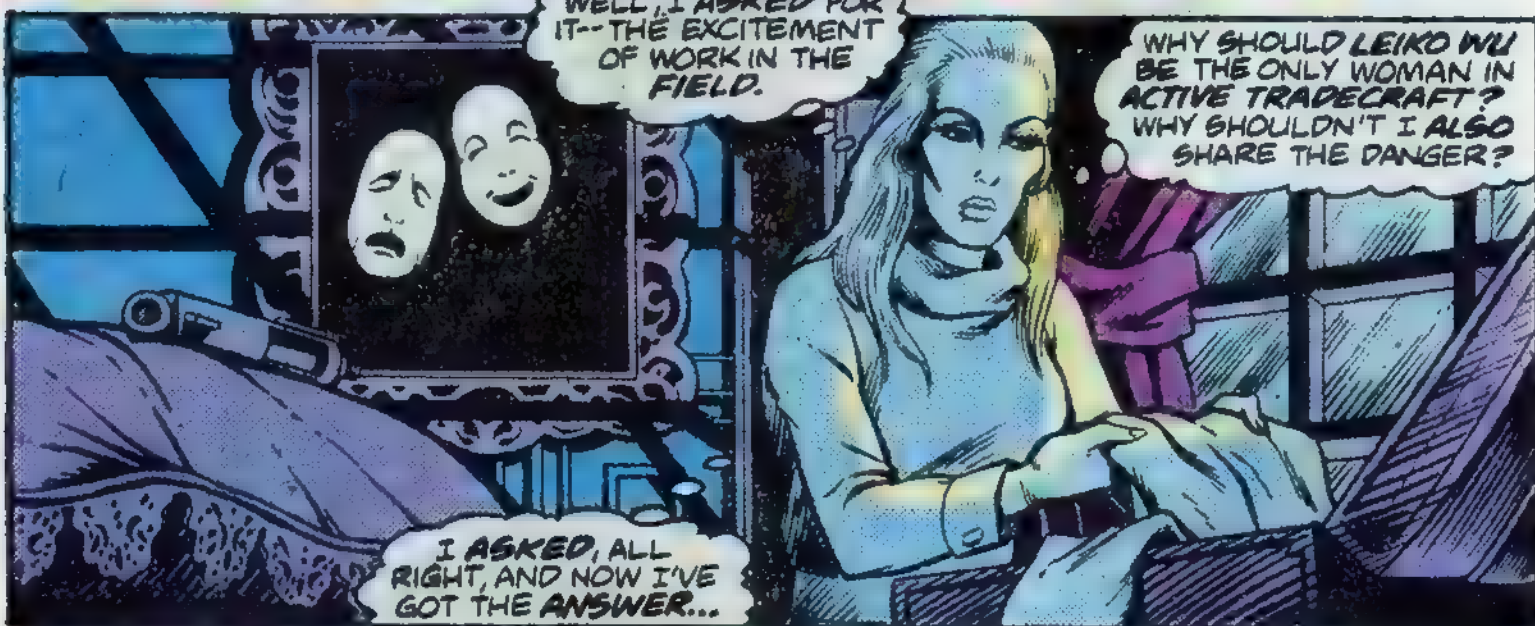
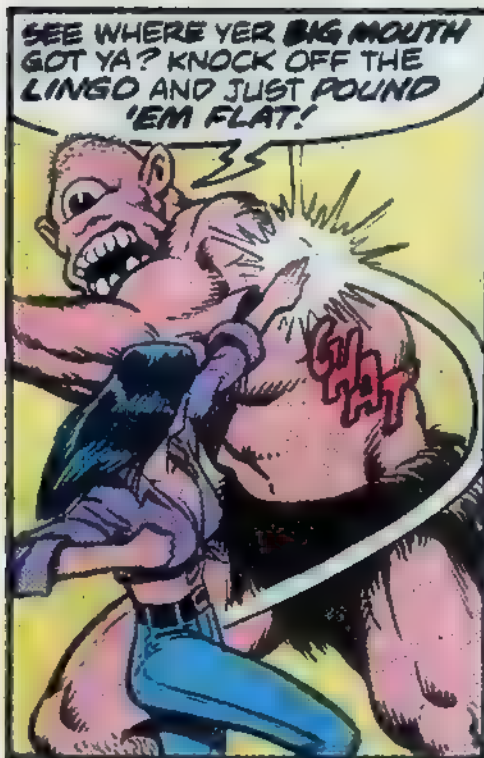


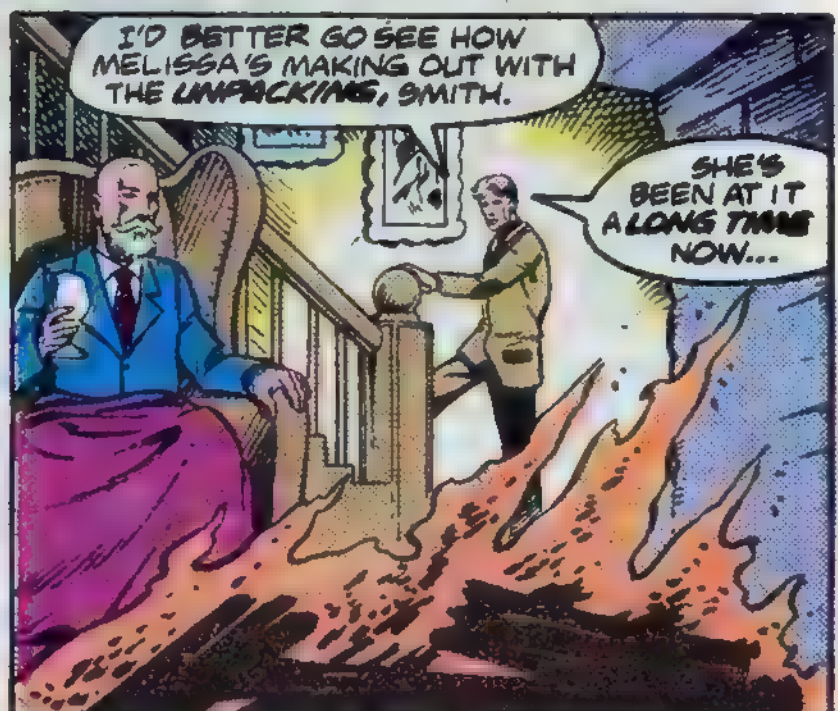
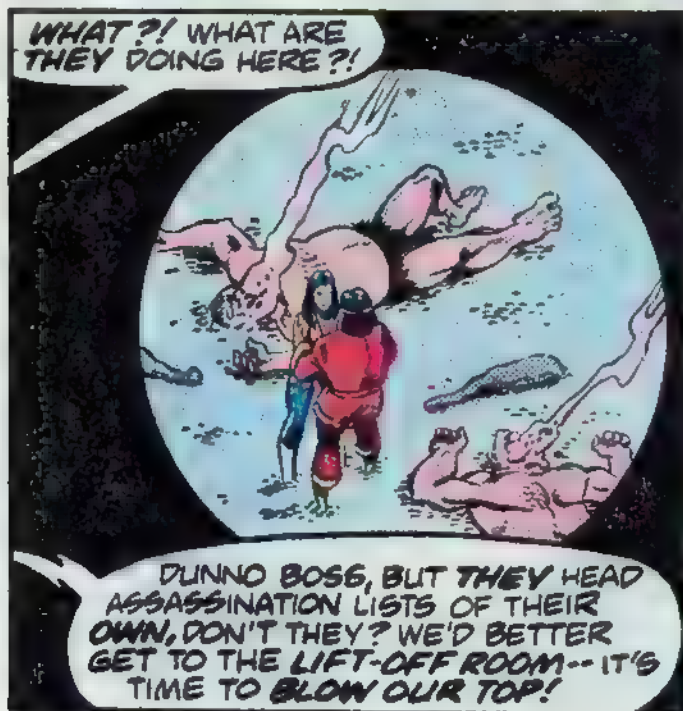
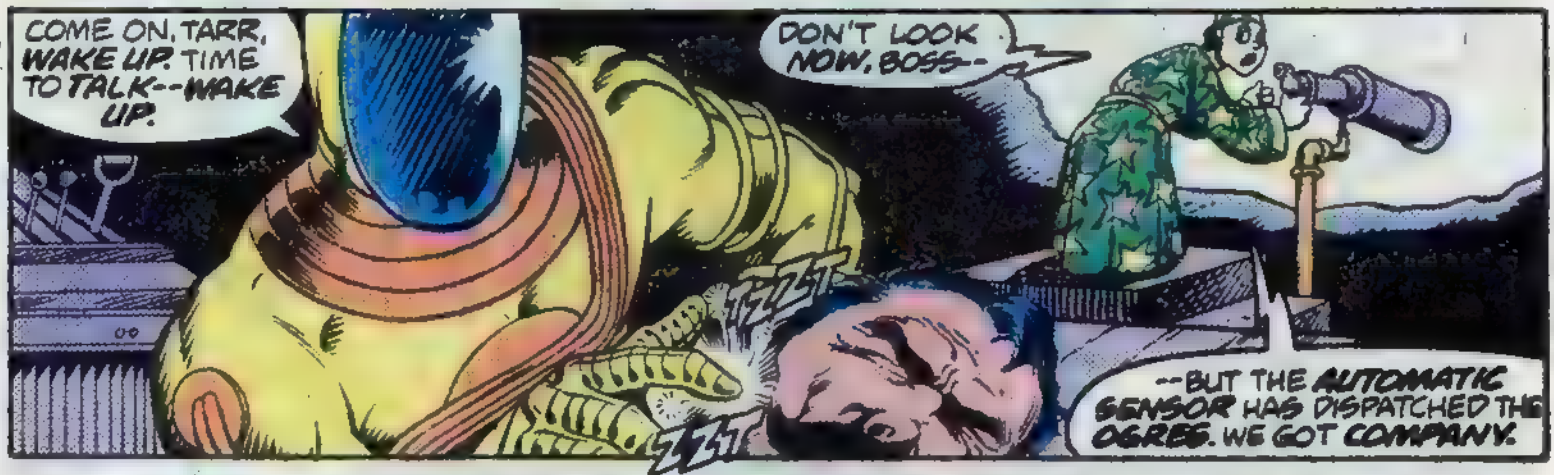
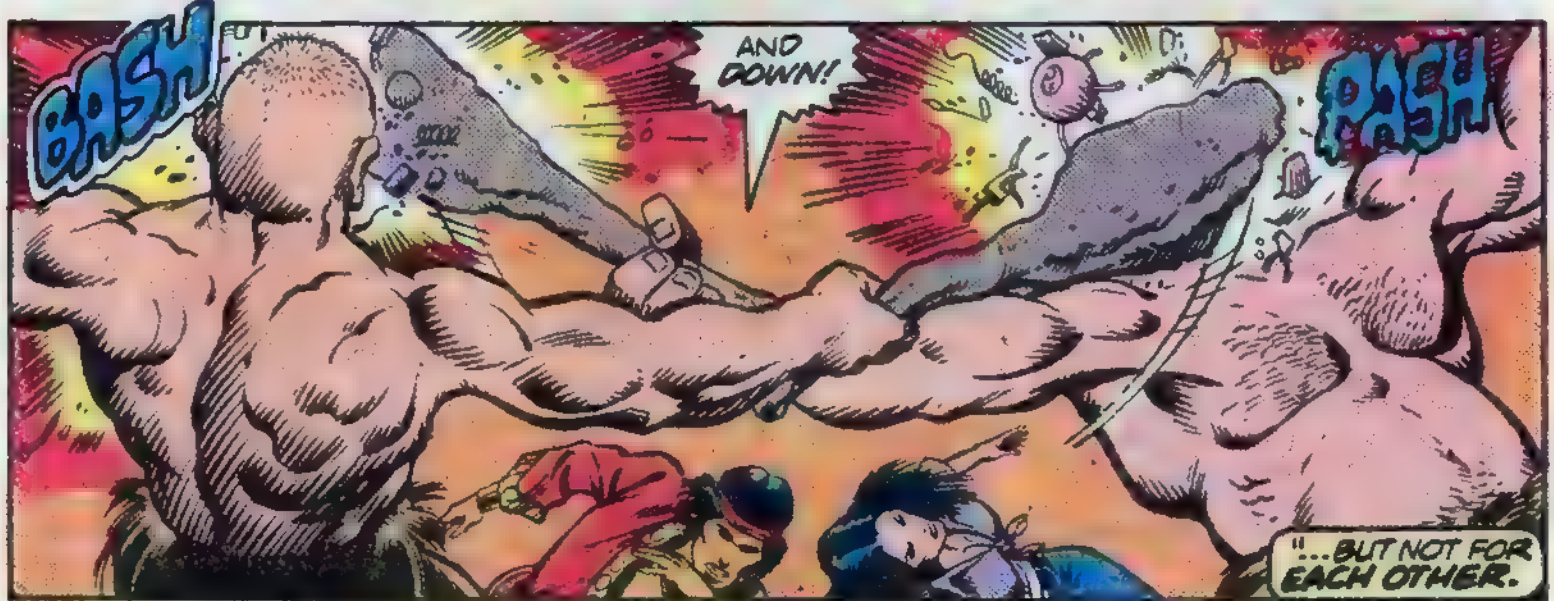
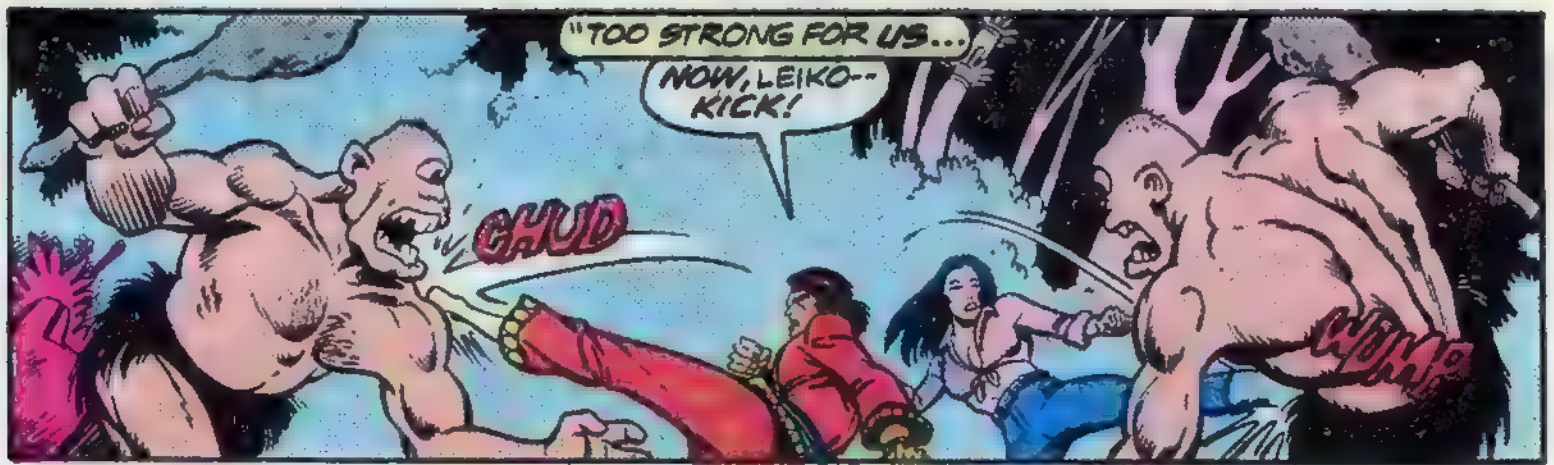
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BULLPEN BULLETINS

STAN'S SOAPBOX

Okay, here it is. For once I remembered what I promised to write about last issue! Here's where you get a serious opinion as to the real difference in editorial approach between our competitors and Marvel. There have been more letters asking me to discuss this subject than any other (and I'd hate to find out that they're all from the competitish 'cause they wanna know how we do it)!

Basically, it seems to me that we write about people while they write about things. We're concerned with the psychological problems and urges that motivate our characters, while the other company prefers to dwell on what happened, how did it happen, and how do we catch the bad guy? Perhaps another way of saying it is, we write for the older reader, for those who are interested in true-to-life dialogue, in absorbing sub-plots and secondary story lines, and in provocative, imaginative themes to boggle the mind. We like to flavor our yarns with satire, with offbeat philosophical concepts, and with controversial subjects. On the other hand, our competitors' mags are aimed at a younger market, which is the reason their stories are generally simpler and more basic in approach.

Now then, I don't mean to sound smug and self-satisfied. I've been telling you the type of stories we aim for, but I'm not claiming a bullseye each time around. As all true believers know, we've certainly come up with our own share of clinkers, of stories that could have been and should have been better. But when we manage to get our act together, we sure come up with some winners!

And now I'll turn you loose while I start to research next month's column. As previously promised, I'm gonna give you the top-secret lowdown on the monumental mystery behind Honest Irving Forbush! Is he man or myth? Is he talent or turkey? Is he bigger than a breadbox? All this and more shall be fearlessly revealed when we meet again next issue! Till then, remember—*audentes fortuna juvat!*

Excelsior!

Stan

ITEM! It was one of those days—a desperately-late SPIDER-WOMAN cover was lost, the stat machine was broken, the water pipes were frozen (in August, yet!) and the paychecks were late. In fact, things were so bad that editor ROGER (Stern) STERN was seen standing on the 8th story window ledge, reading his last will and testament aloud. Just after he had bequeathed away his INCREDIBLE HULK t-shirt to assistant editor Masterful MARK GRUENWALD, the news came that once again, Mighty MARVEL COMICS had captured the lion's share of the prestigious EAGLE AWARDS, British fandom's highest honor. Among the winners were X-MEN, for best team and favorite

dramatic series; SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN, for favorite Black-and-White magazine; HOWARD THE DUCK, for favorite humor series; JOHN CARTER, WARLORD OF MARS, for favorite new series; AVENGERS ANNUAL #7, "The Final Threat", for favorite single-issue story; and (oddly enough) that same story, and its sequel in MARVEL TWO-IN-ONE ANNUAL #2, "Death Watch", for favorite continued story. Also honored were Timorous TERRY AUSTIN, as favorite inker; Thanos, as favorite villain; Pip the Troll, as favorite supporting character; and The Silver Surfer, as character most worthy of his own feature. That delightful news perked up just about everyone around the office, especially Roger Stern, proud editor of both JOHN CARTER and X-MEN. Good ol' Rog stepped down off the window sill and headed for his desk, happy as a clam! Mark was somewhat disappointed, however, at not getting his promised t-shirt, but we'll all chip in and buy him one—if the paychecks ever come!

ITEM! A quick welcome actually, for newly arrived ace colorist CARL (The Gaff) GAF-FORD and soon-to-be renowned inker Able AL GORDON! Check out their accomplishments in MARVEL PREMIERE #48, featuring Man-Wolf, and SPIDER-WOMAN #11, featuring the villainy of Brother Grimm, and then give us the verdict—should we keep these guys, or feed them to the alligators?



ITEM! A couple of years back a trio of talented gentlemen named Doug Moench, Paul Gulacy, and Dan Adkins combined their skills to bring the MASTER OF KUNG FU series to a breathtaking pinnacle of achievement in comics art. When, finally, circumstances separated this award-winning team, it seemed that things would never be quite right with Shang-Chi again. For a while, each succeeding issue brought new problems, artist and inker changes, natural disasters, plagues of locusts, and all the accompanying schedule ills which disturb the delicate balance of yin and yang necessary to produce Timeless Masterpieces. Undaunted, however, mighty Marvel pressed on, and, at long last recruited Miraculous MIKE ZECK, penciler, and Braah BRUCE PATTERSON, inker, to join Devil-May-Care DOUG MOENCH, writer, as regulars on MOKF. As each new issue rolls in from these talented and dedicated gentlemen, the feeling grows among those of us at 575 Madison that we are witnessing the evolution of a series destined to rival—nay,

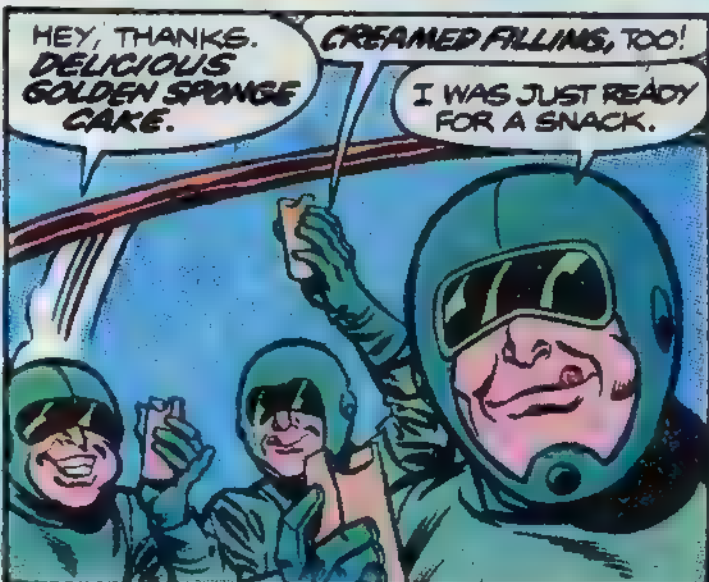
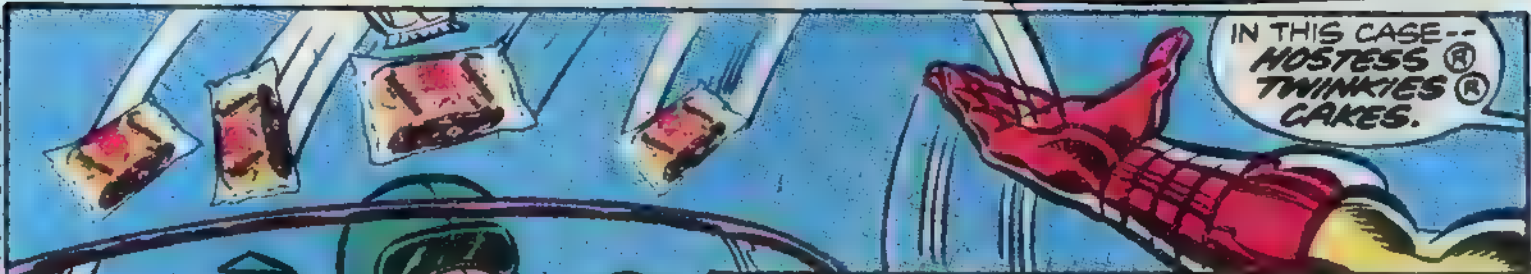
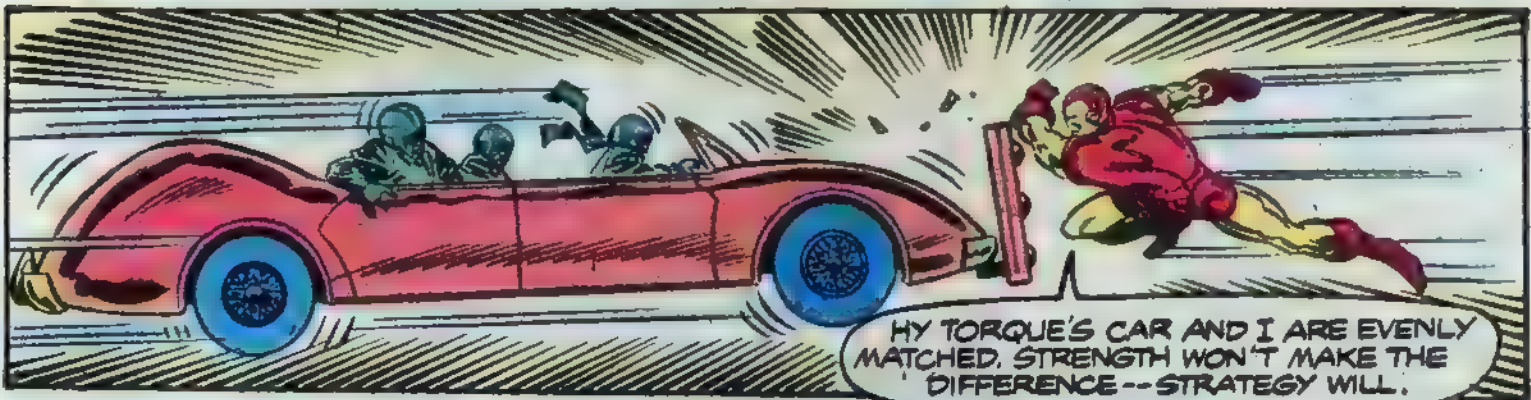
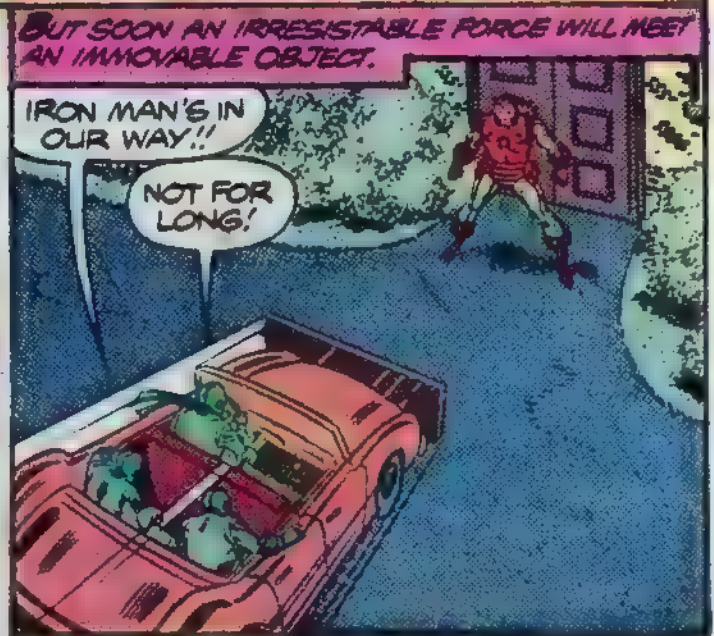
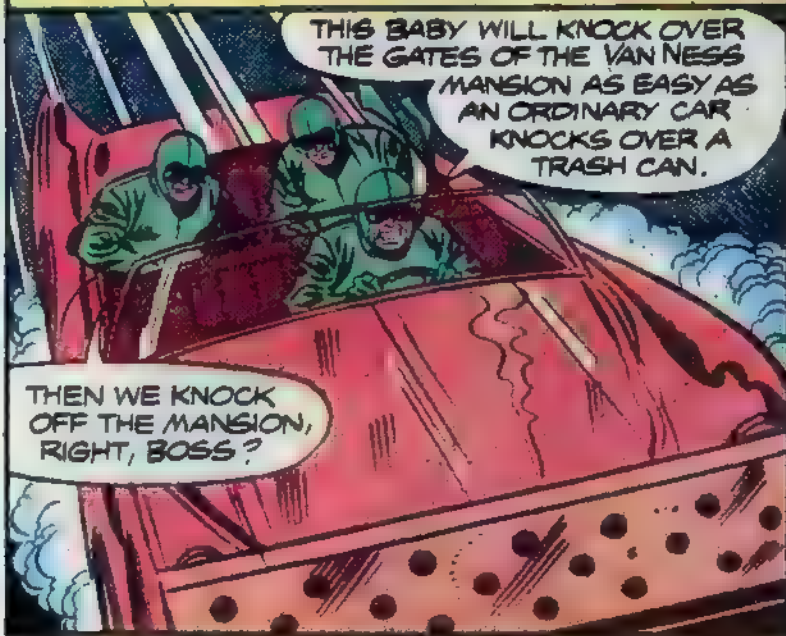
surpass the classics of yesteryear. We could try to describe the way Mike's dynamic-yet-subtle penciling is complemented perfectly by Bruce's clean, bold, striking inkline, or how well the sheer lyrical power of the art blends with both Doug's oft-acclaimed scripting and Shang-Chi's unique personality, but we won't. Instead, we simply defy Marvel-dom Assembled to read issue #73 of MOKF, now on sale, which chronicles Shang-Chi's return to dreaded Mordillo's Island! You'll see!

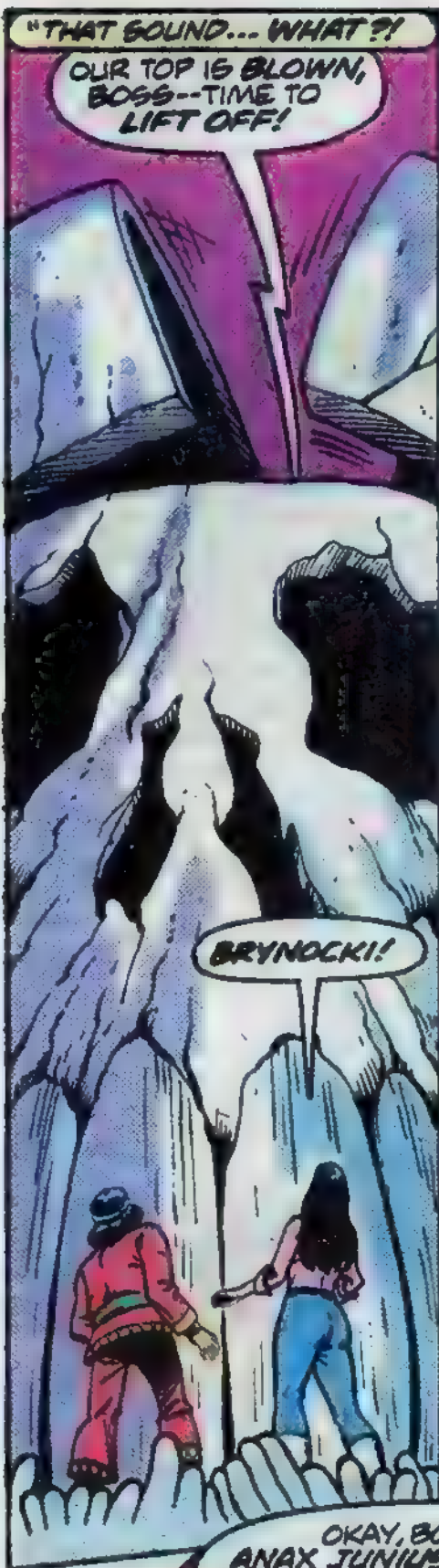
ITEM! Gigantic Editor-in-Chief JIM SHOOTER answered the phone the other day, and who should be on the line but JOHN BELUSHI, star of stage, screen and NBC's comedy hit, SATURDAY NIGHT LIVE! Ever calm under pressure, Jim smoothly said, "Hey, John, you're fine. How am I?" But Jaunty John understood anyway, and proceeded to congratulate the Marvel crew for our creative efforts on MARVEL TEAM-UP #74, which featured Mr. Belushi and the other wild and crazy members of the Not-Ready-For-Prime-Time Players (shame on you if you missed it!). Later, John stopped by the hallowed halls to meet all the awestruck armadillos, especially Chris Claremont, Bob Hall, Dave Cockrum, and Marie Severin, who crafted the issue in question; and to invite us to the Opening Night party for his new movie, Animal House. It was an honor, a pleasure, and a night to remember for us Bullpeners. By the way, be sure to see the flick, it's the cat's pajamas!

ITEM! So many great things are happening we can't begin to cover them all, but pay attention and we'll try to zip through some of them quickly. First, be sure to catch SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #27 which showcases the penciling of one of the most rapidly rising stars this industry has ever seen, namely FRANK MILLER. Lanky Frank's portrayal of the web-slinger's characteristic spider-like movement as he traverses the rooftops is sure to become a standard for spider-artists. And wait'll you see what he does with a certain Fearless guest-star! After that, check out MS. MARVEL #22 and get in on the ground floor of what promises to be a super series of issues drawn by Meticulous MIKE VOSBURG. And, you'd be well advised to seek out current issues of both THE HULK and CAPTAIN AMERICA, between the pages of which rage the most memorable crossover of recent history. And as if that weren't enough, HOWARD THE DUCK is alive and well, and don't let anyone tell you different. Get down to your newsstand now, and you won't miss out! Okay? Okay!



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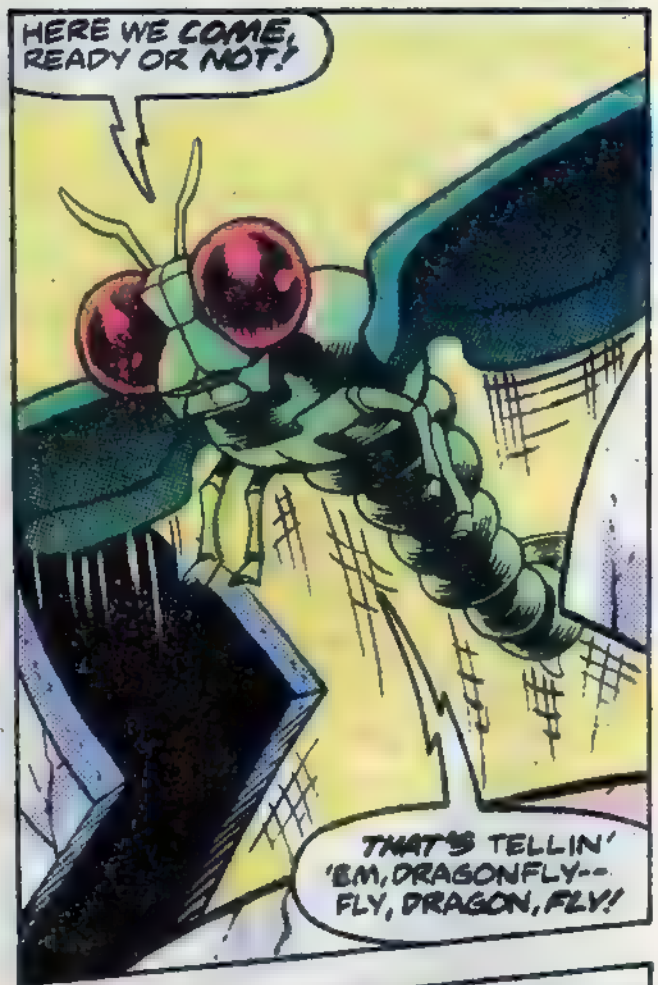
"THAT SOUND... WHAT?!"

OUR TOP IS BLOWN,
BOSS--TIME TO
LIFT OFF!

BRYNOCKI!



MELISSA...?
ARE YOU IN
THERE?



HERE WE COME,
READY OR NOT!

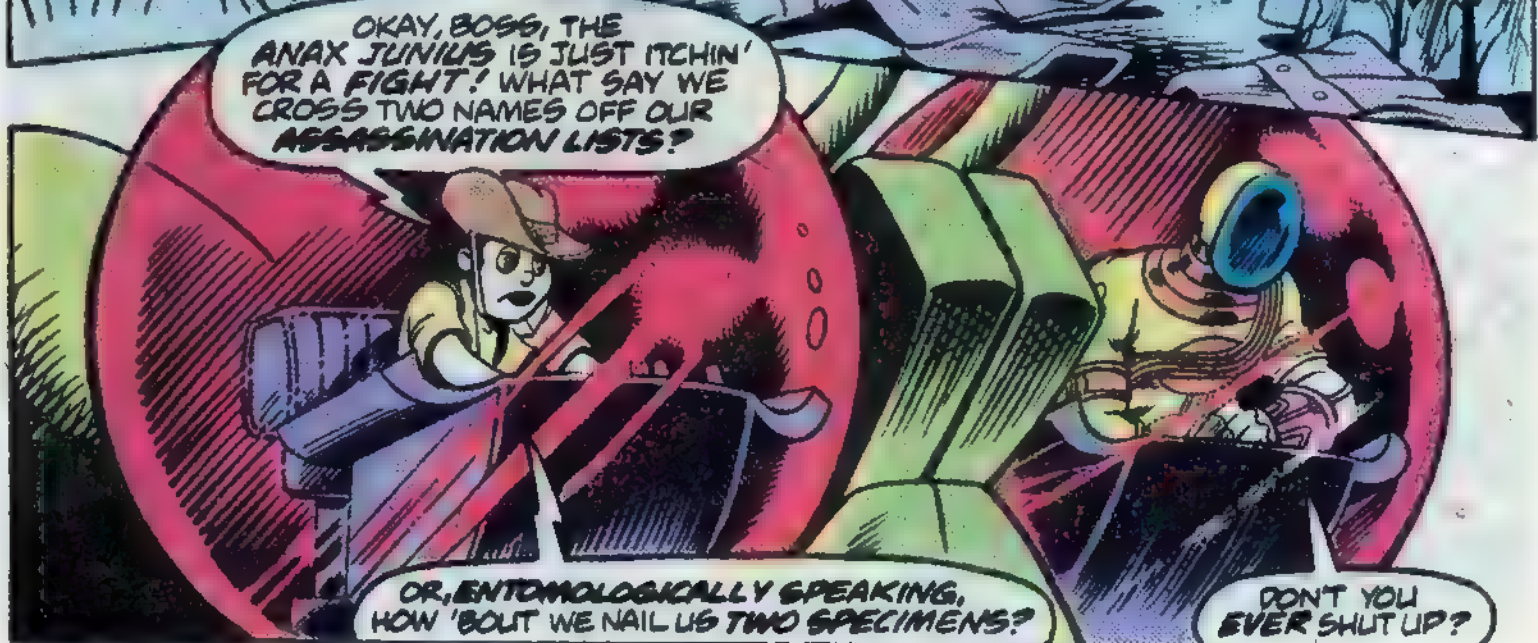
THAT'S TELLIN'
'EM, DRAGONFLY--
FLY, DRAGON, FLY!



OH MY LORD!

MELISSA!

SHE'S
GONE!!



OKAY, BOSS, THE
ANAX JUNIUS IS JUST ITCHIN'
FOR A FIGHT! WHAT SAY WE
CROSS TWO NAMES OFF OUR
ASSASSINATION LISTS?

OR, ENTOMOLOGICALLY SPEAKING,
HOW 'BOUT WE NAIL US TWO SPECIMENS?

DON'T YOU
EVER SHUT UP?

NOPE, NOT WHEN I'M
CHARGED WITH MAINTAININ'
YOUR MORALE, BOSS.

"WE HAVE DESCENDED
IN VAIN SEARCH OF
BLACK JACK TARR..."

NOW LET'S
HIT IT, BOSS--
EXTERMINATE 'EM
FOR THE GLORY OF THE
BRITISH EMPIRE!!

MOVE IT, YOU
GUYS--MORDILLO'S POPPED
HIS CORK AGAIN! ONE OF
THESE DAYS HE'S GONNA
KILL HIMSELF!

KILL HIMSELF...?
WHAT ABOUT US?!

"AND NOW,
HAUNTED
BY LEIKO'S
PREMONITION, MADNESS
DESCENDS ON... US."

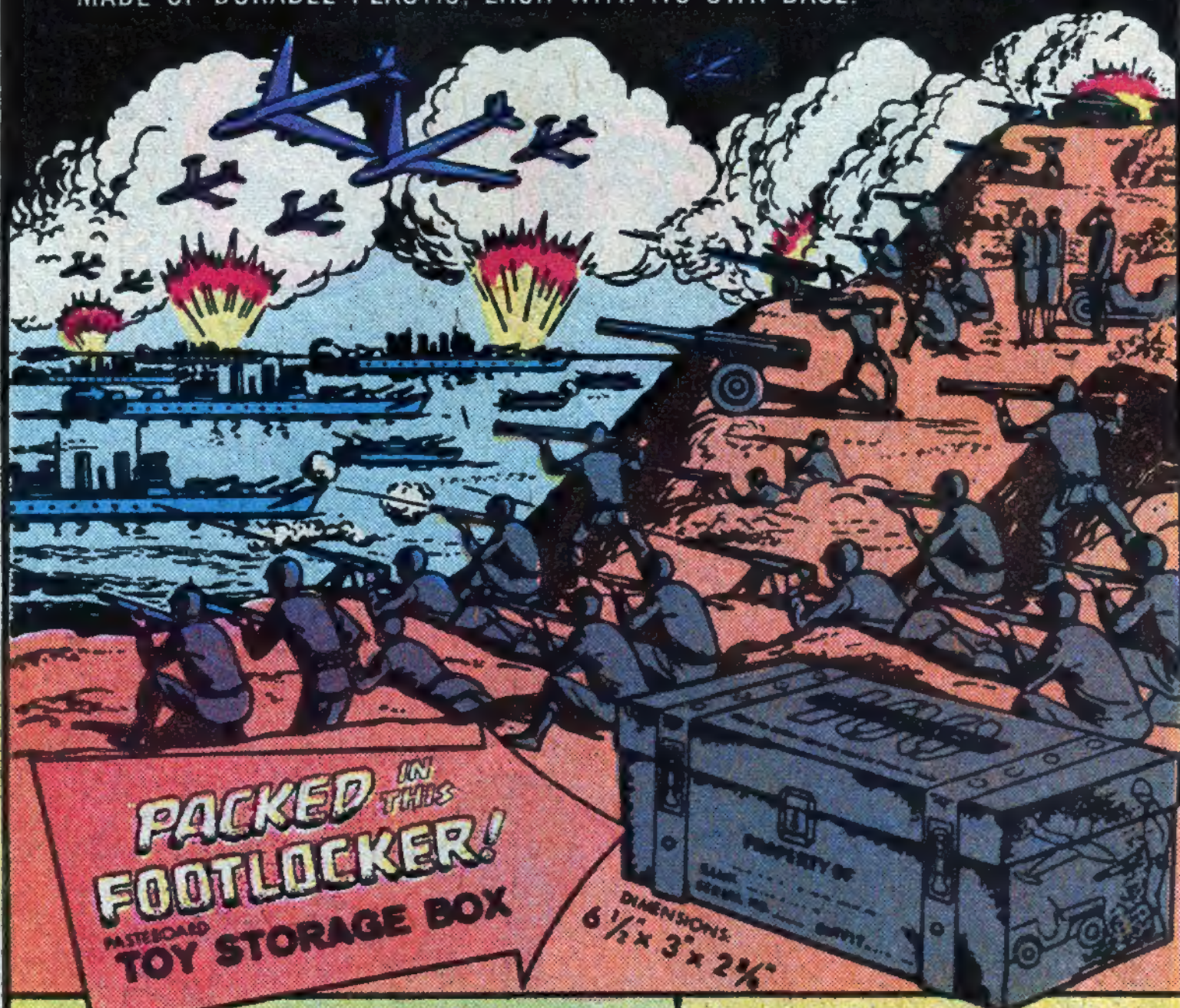
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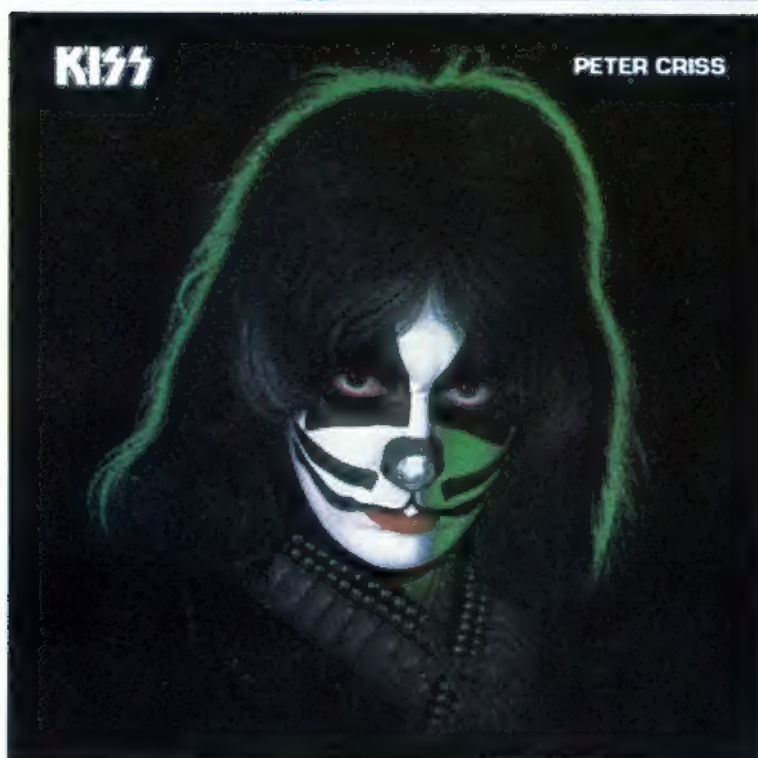
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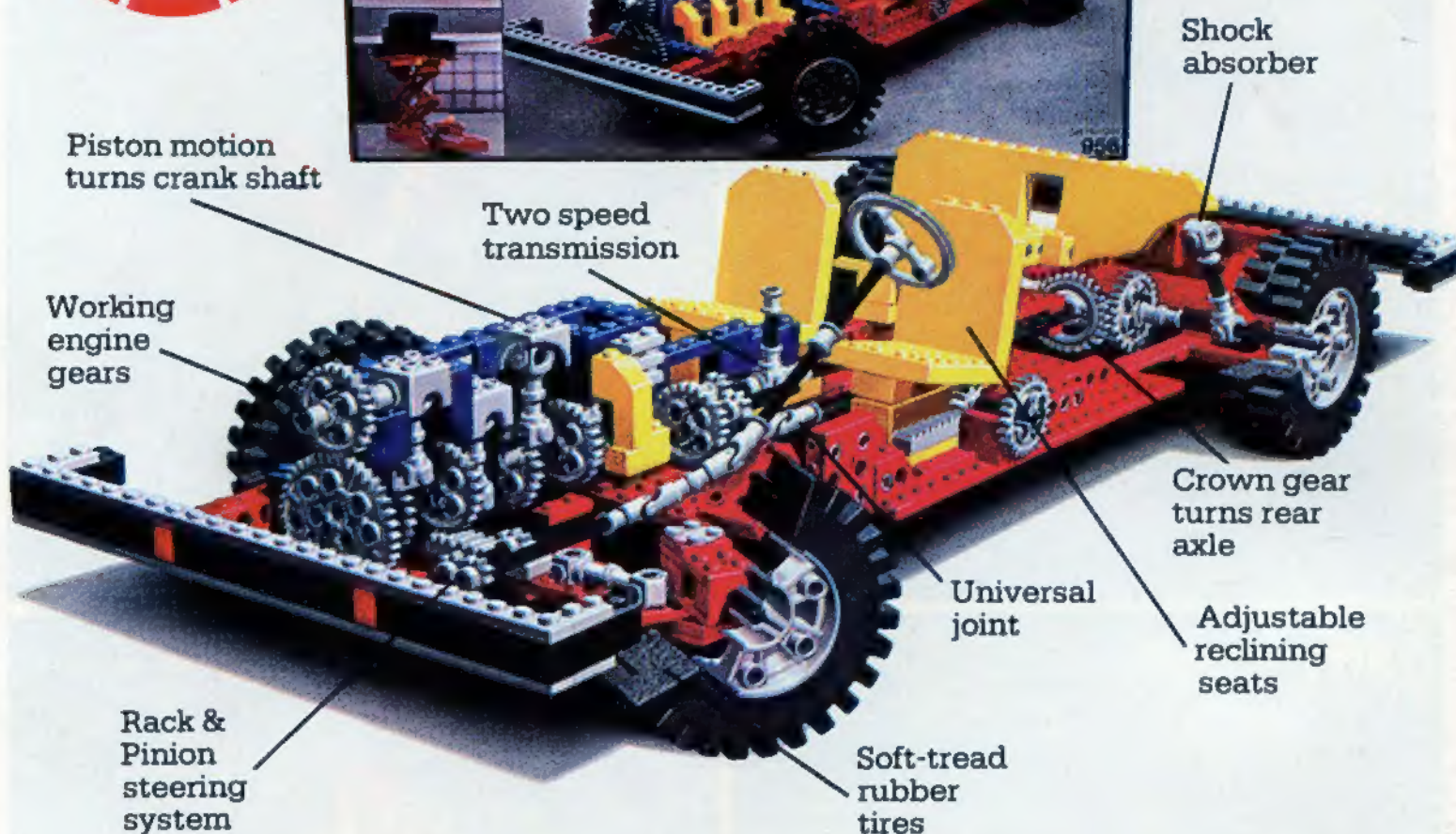
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